High court says party list only for the marginalized

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2001 ★ 60 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 199 ₱15

Elite force ready to battle kidnappers

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE MACAPAGAL administration is now ready to take on kidnap-for-ransom gangs and illegal drug syndicates.

Members of the Anti-Crime Task Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Actafp) yesterday displayed before the military top brass

ELITE/ A17

WHAT'S INSIDE

- RP, Sino boats in Shoal standoff
NEWS / A4
- Bank loans rose 6.2% in April
BUSINESS / B1
- Gloria, Mike worth P61M
NEWS / A4
- P342M for Mindanao missing
NEWS / A2

Pay of gov't execs frozen

GMA shocked that some officials get P10M in salaries, perks

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WANT to be an instant multi-millionaire?

Be appointed chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office(PCSO) or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) where one receives a yearly P10 million in salaries, discretionary and representation funds and other allowances. Senior executives are no slouches, either. They receive an average of P300,000 in basic monthly pay.

Atrocious.

That is how Malacañang described the salaries and benefits received by some of these top officials of 71 government-owned and controlled corporations(GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) like the PCSO and the GSIS.

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Memorandum Order No. 20 which ordered a suspension of the salary increases and benefits of all senior officers of all GOCCs, GFIs and their subsidiaries.

Based on a study made on orders of President Macapagal, Malacañang discovered that some officials earn as much as P10 million a year, making their pay packages far superior than their counterparts in the country and in the entire Asean region.

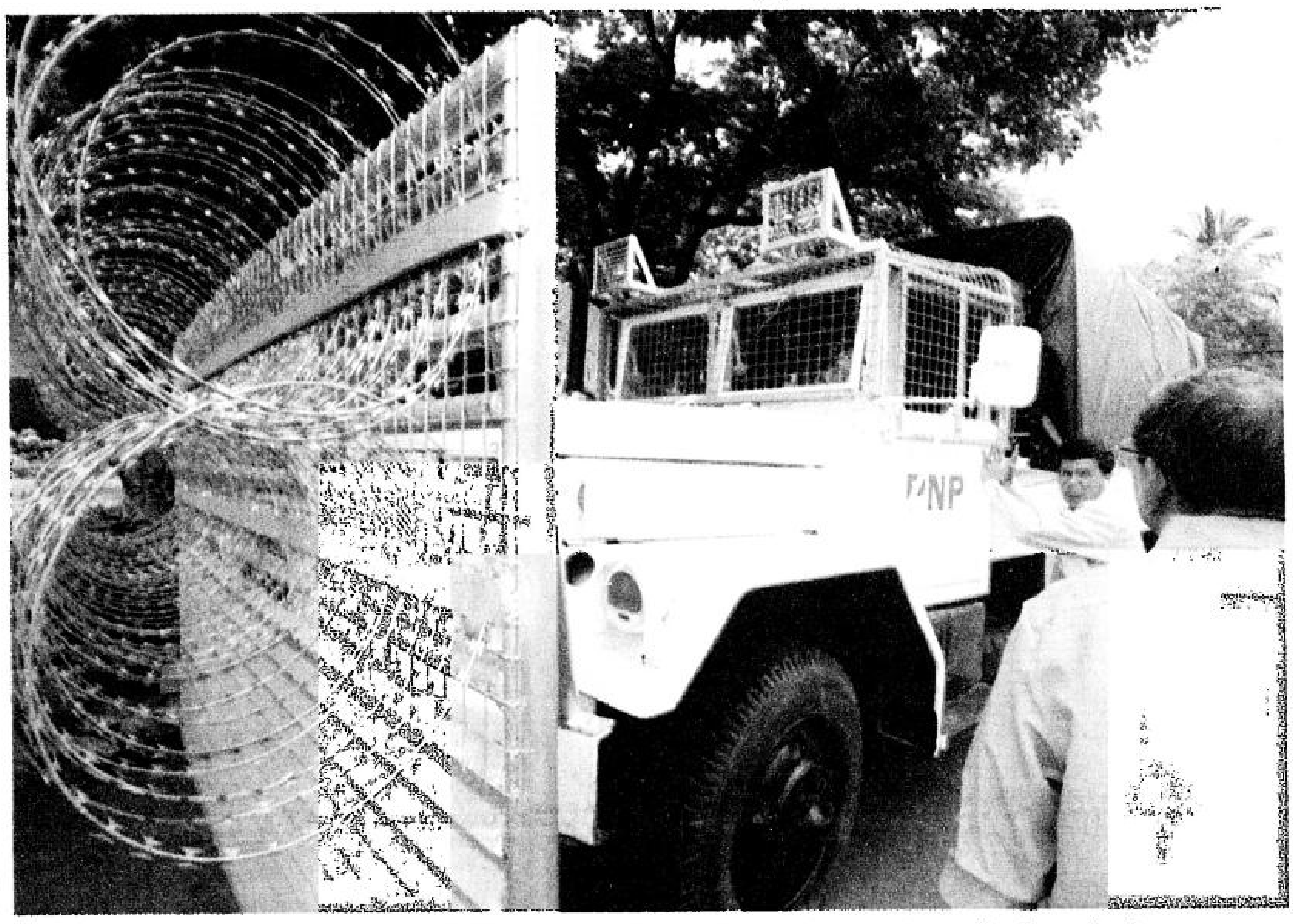
The perks of the officials concerned include even allowances for their children.

The drive against the high-earning officials was one of several directives the President fired off yesterday after meeting her Cabinet.

In her other directives dubbed "governance directions," the President also:

- Appointed a "crisis manager" for Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi *(Story on Page A1).*
- Abolished all Cabinet clusters and ordered all Cabinet secretaries to be in the frontline of pub-

PAY/ A15



INVENTIVE, sadistic mob control device, another of PNP's bright ideas: Two rolls of barbed wire mounted on a police dispersal truck.

VAL HANDUMON

Erap arraignment for perjury set today

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

UNLESS the Sandiganbayan changes its mind, deposed President Joseph Estrada will be arraigned on the lesser charge of perjury at 3 p.m. today at the anti-graft court's building in Quezon City after it rejected yesterday a police petition to transfer the trial to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center's auditorium.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, the first division chair handling the perjury charge, said police officials failed to provide convincing proof to justify the transfer of the corruption trial to the military hospital, also in Quezon City, where Estrada has been undergoing medical treatment and tests.

The motion of the Philippine National Police (PNP) was based on "intelligence reports" that Estrada's supporters would use the arraignment to launch violent mass actions similar to the assault on Malacañang on May 1.

The reports said Estrada could even be ambushed while being transferred from the VMMC to the Sandiganbayan building about 7 kilometers away.

But Garchitorena said: "There is inadequate demonstration that the PNP is incompetent to defend the facilities of this court."

"If you have security measures in place at Veterans, then put them (also) in place here," he told Doroteo Reyes, chief of the PNP legal services, in an 8:30 a.m. hearing on the motion.

Garchitorena, however, suggested that the court might still allow the transfer of the trial if the police could come up with more

ERAP/ A17

Erap asks supporters to avoid violence

BY VOLT CONTRERAS,
CARLITO PABLO
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

EXERCISE sobriety and refrain from acts "that may give an excuse' for this government to resort again to excessive force that can result in death or injury to anyone."

Joseph Estrada issued the call to his supporters on the eve of his arraignment for perjury.

The deposed President dismissed as "grossly exaggerated" the military and police red alert over what he called an "imagined" destabilization plot timed for his arraignment.

In a statement, he asked the Macapagal administration not "to divert public attention from . . . real problems" like the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis, the depreciation of the peso, the rise in criminality, and Mayon Volcano's eruption.

But Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, said the threat of destabilization against the administration was neither an exaggerated claim nor an attempt to divert the public's attention from Basilan.

"We live with this threat day by day," Villanueva said.

The AFP and the Philippine National Police have been placed on full alert amid reports that opposition quarters may take advantage of the arraignment of Estrada. *(Story on Page A1.)*

The AFP had earlier mobilized its anti-coup Task Force Libra, which was formed a few days before Estrada was arrested on April 25. His arrest sparked the Edsa III uprising.

ERAP TELLS/ A17

THE CONGESTED state of Mayon evacuees inside a classroom of the Binitayan Elementary School in Albay where 30 families are sprawled on the floor for the night

EDWIN BACASMAS

Rains set off minor eruption

BY ROLY EMBILE
AND REY NASOL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Mayon Volcano again erupted yesterday as thousands of residents from outside the danger zone trooped to the evacuation centers.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in a statement that Mayon had a "minor explosion with a small pyroclastic (volcanic debris) flow" at 2:28 p.m., its first activity after a lull of almost two days.

"Phivolcs expects more explosive eruptions in the following days," the agency said.

Alert level No. 5 remains in effect over Mayon.

Paul Alanis, Phivolcs' designated spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that pressure from beneath the volcano and rainwater caused the "slight ash puff."

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) in Albay tried to allay fears of an impending lahar avalanche.

Resident volcanologist Edgar Laguerta, who is based at the Lignon Hill Observatory here, said

RAINS/ A16

Captured Abu spy starts singing–AFP

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE ALLEGED intelligence officer of the Abu Sayyaf, who was captured in Zamboanga City last week, is cracking after days of intense interrogation, according to Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

"(His arrest) signals the demise of the Abu Sayyaf," Villanueva said. "As in the arrest of the others, his will make a lot of difference."

Looking tired and haggard, the diminutive Abdullah Yusop who goes by the aliases Mulu Abdullah and Boy Iran, was presented to defense reporters yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo.

"He is still undergoing tactical interrogation but I can tell you that he has mentioned certain names and certain activities in certain places" in connection with the Abu Sayyaf, Villanueva said.

The general said the military was hopeful that the information would lead to breakthroughs in the campaign against the bandit group.

"Before (Yusop) we were able to neutralize some, and after him, we will neutralize more of them," Villanueva said.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said she had named

CAPTURED/ A16

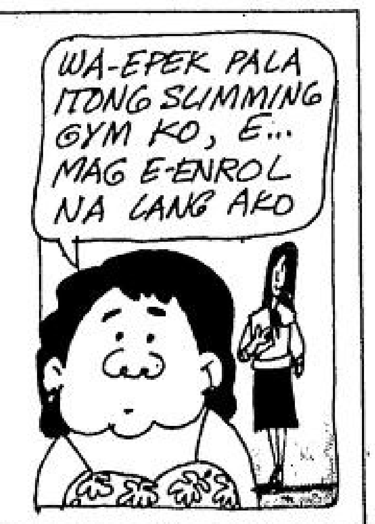
Want to lose weight? Finish high school, says Austrian study

VIENNA—Want to lose weight? Then finish high school.

An Austrian study suggested that teenage girls hoping to lose weight should forget about dieting and complete their schooling instead.

The study found that girls who finished secondary education were nearly three times as likely to be underweight as those who dropped

WANT/ A15


WA-EPEK PALA ITONG SLIMMING GYM KO, E... MAG E-ENROL NA LANG AKO

Second FRONT PAGE

YUNG QUALIFIED DAPAT ANG PANALO!

P342M for Mindanao missing

A COMMISSION on Audit report says that some P342.35 million worth of cash and material donations supposed to be distributed to victims of the Mindanao war is missing.

The amount, the COA said, was supposed to be distributed by the National Disaster Coordinating Council for displaced Mindanaoans in the second half of last year.

However, auditors said, it could not be found in the account books of the Office of Civil Defense.

This was contained in the COA's yearend report for 2000, copies of which were made available to reporters yesterday.

The donations, which came from local and foreign donors, were not listed in NDCC records and were meant for the program "Tulong Kapatid."

The program was launched on June 26, 2000 to provide "comprehensive humanitarian assistance to the displaced population of the Mindanao conflict."

SC: Party list only for the marginalized

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court yesterday barred the Commission on Elections from proclaiming any winner in the party-list elections.

Instead, the tribunal, in a 43-page decision, ordered the Comelec to conduct "summary evidentiary hearings" on the qualifications of the 154 party-list participants based on guidelines that the SC set down.

Voting 9-5, the SC said only party-list participants representing marginalized or underrepresented sectors; organizations not funded or assisted by government funds and whose nominees also belong to marginalized groups are qualified.

Meanwhile, political parties, which also ran under the party-list setup must show during the evidentiary hearings that they represent the interests of the marginalized and underrepresented, the SC said.

The tribunal also stressed that religious groups are not allowed to participate in the party-list election.

While party-list aspirants being questioned were enumerated in the petition, the SC did not single out anyone it deems not qualified and left it to the Comelec to decide.

Within 30 days

"Considering the extreme urgency of determining the winners in the last party-list elections, the Comelec is directed to begin its hearings for the parties and organizations that appear to have garnered such number of votes as to qualify for seats in the House of Representatives," the decision said.

It also ordered the Comelec to submit its compliance report "within 30 days from notice thereof."

The SC reminded the Comelec that the resolution it issued on May 9 instructing the commission "to refrain from proclaiming any winner" in the last party-list election "shall remain in force until after the Comelec itself will have complied and reported its compliance."

The decision released late yesterday afternoon was penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban and concurred by eight others including Josue Bellosillo, Jose A.R. Melo, Reynato Puno, Santiago Kapunan, Bernardo Pardo, Arturo Buena, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Justices who dissented were Jose Vitug, Vicente Mendoza, Leonardo Quisumbing, Sabino de Leon and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago is abroad on official business and was not able to vote.

Non-marginalized

The tribunal's order was based on petitions submitted by party-list participants Bayan Muna and Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW Labor Party.

Bagong Bayani objected in particular to the inclusion of political parties. Bayan Muna meanwhile, also questioned the participation of "non-marginalized" groups such as those created by sugar barons and real estate developers.

Bayan Muna's petition mentioned Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, topnotcher in the party-list race, among those it believes does not qualify, charging that MAD is a "government entity using government resources and privileges."

Referring to the Constitution, the high court said marginalized sectors listed in its provisions include only labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and "such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector."

"However, it is not enough for the candidate to claim representation of the marginalized and underrepresented, because representation is easy to claim and to feign," the decision said.

"The party-list organization or party must factually and truly represent the marginalized and underrepresented constituencies. Concurrently, the persons nominated by the party-list candidate-organization must be Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties," it added.

Super-rich

The court noted arguments presented by the Office of the Solicitor General which represented the Comelec during oral arguments.

In particular, the tribunal said the OSG claimed that Republic Act 7941, the law on the party-list system, "does not limit—participation—to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors of society," later admitting that "even an organization representing the super-rich of Forbes Park or Dasmariñas Village could participate in the party-list elections.

The court said this argument "disregards the clear statutory policy. Its claim that even the super-rich and overrepresented can participate desecrates the spirit of the party-list system."

"While the business moguls and the mega-rich are, numerically speaking, a tiny minority, they are neither marginalized nor underrepresented, for the stark reality is that their economic clout engenders political power more awesome than their numerical limitation," the court stressed.

"It is ironic therefore, that the marginalized and underrepresented in our midst are the majority who wallow in poverty, destitution and infirmity. It was for them that the party-list system was enacted—to give them not only genuine hope, but genuine power; to give them the opportunity to be elected and to represent the specific concerns of their constituencies; and simply to give them a direct voice in Congress and in the larger affairs of the State," the decision added.

German with fake US bonds arrested

AVIATION authorities yesterday announced the arrest of a German national for possession of fake US federal reserve notes amounting to $1.125 billion inside a chartered plane at the Davao International Airport on Monday.

Klaus Dietrich Salzieder, 53, was arrested at 6:40 a.m. Monday by members of the Aviation Security Group (ASG) inside a Chemtrad plane bound for Manila, ASG Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr. said in a report.

His arrest came after ASG men, led by Supt. Donardo Torres, found the fake notes in a black box during a search. The box, marked "Federal Reserve United States of America," turned out to be owned by Salzieder, Ele said.

The ASG agents searched the Chemtrad plane for bombs after receiving information that there was a threat to blow up the plane, registered as RPC-764 and piloted by Jose Lorenzo Reyna.

US secret service agent Victor Lorenzo certified that the seized federal reserve notes were fake, according to Ele.

Salzieder, who is married to a Filipina, however, denied ownership of the notes, claiming that a Filipino named Sam had requested him to bring the package to one Jim Bredson, who is billeted at the Peninsula Hotel in Makati.

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Comelec crisis puts final tally in jeopardy

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE WORSENING leadership crisis at the Commission on Elections threatens to delay even more the completion of the national senatorial canvass.

Lawyers of the Puwersa ng Masa yesterday urged the bickering Comelec commissioners to produce a final senatorial count before June 30, when winning candidates officially begin their term of office.

"The internal squabbling in the Comelec has jeopardized the true mandate of the people," said PnM counsel Rufus Rodriguez, who filed a motion for the early resolution of four pending petitions questioning 179,451 votes cast for Sen. Ralph Recto.

Rodriguez asked the National Board of Canvassers, or the Comelec en banc, to resolve the four petitions so that the final tally and ranking of the 13 senators would be known before noon of June 30.

Rodriguez said the 12th and 13th placers cannot take their oath as the length of their terms cannot as yet be determined. The No. 12 senator will serve a full six-year term but the 13th placer, who will serve the remainder of former senator, now Vice President, Teofisto Guingona, will serve for only three years.

"This is the longest count by the Comelec ever," said Rodriguez.

But there seems to be no end in sight for the factionalism at the Comelec, where the latest contretemps concerns who should act in the absence of chair Alfredo Benipayo.

BENIPAYO

Benipayo, who left Friday night for Stockholm to attend two conferences, had issued a memorandum appointing Commissioner Rex Borra and another commissioner as officers in charge.

However, four commissioners known to be antagonistic to Benipayo issued on Saturday overturning the Comelec chief's memorandum, and installed Commissioner Rufino Javier as acting chair.

Javier had signed the resolution setting aside Benipayo's memorandum.

Borra yesterday declared Resolution 4488 illegal and said he would assert his designation as OIC for administrative and financial matters "with full signing authority."

"The arguments raised in the instant resolution are very much displaced," Borra said.

Borra's memorandum was concurred in by Commissioner Florentino Tuason. Borra and Tuason are the commissioners most closely identified with Benipayo. The three were all appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Resolution 4488 was signed by Commissioners Luz Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Javier, all of whom have clashed with Benipayo, Borra and Tuason on a number of key policy and administrative issues.

Some Comelec department heads have been so demoralized by the contradictory memorandums that some are thinking of going on leave rather than be caught in the middle of the conflict.

Comelec sources said Benipayo may have to cut short his official trip and return to Manila within the week upon the urging of his senior staff who have expressed alarm over the divisions and confusion in the poll body.

FIGHTING FOR NO. 12

Recto votes padded by 180,000–Gringo

By Armand N. Nocum

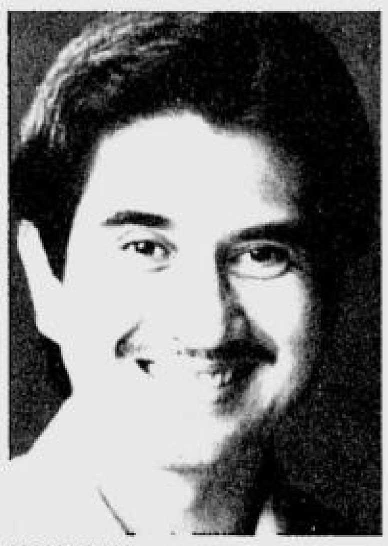
SEN. Gregorio Honasan has filed petitions before the Commission on Elections asking that a total of 188,000 votes be deducted from the votes of Senator-elect Ralph Recto in a last ditch effort to occupy the 12th slot in the last Senate race.

In three petitions, Honasan sought the correction and exclusion of votes for Recto in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Norte and Sultan Kudarat.

A fourth petition asks Comelec to resolve the three petitions before June 30, the day when neophyte senators are to take their oath into office.

"I am hoping to take oath as the 12th senator (on June 30)," said Honasan, who earlier admitted that he was wary about the possibility of landing in the unlucky 13 slot.

Recto leads Honasan by 150,000 votes to keep the 12th slot.


HONASAN

"Let us allow the figures to speak. The Comelec should resolve the petitions based on the facts I have stated there," he said.

He said Recto's votes were allegedly padded in the areas where he wants them deducted.

"It seems that even the middle management of Comelec has problems with mathematics," he said.

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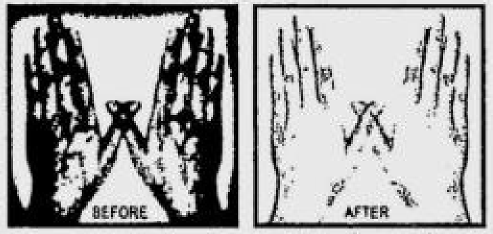

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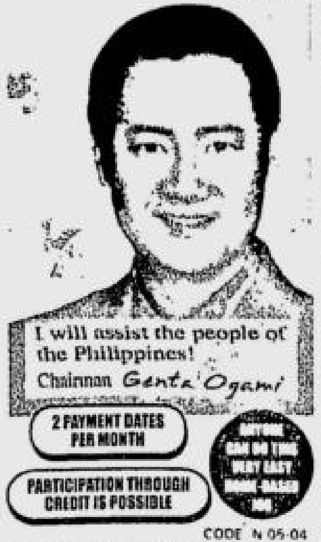

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Navies helpless vs Malacca pirates

KUALA LUMPUR—Naval experts at an international conference on piracy warned Tuesday that attacks in Southeast Asia will worsen as ill-equipped coast guards in Indonesia and the Philippines struggle to contain cash-rich rebels and international syndicates.

Hiroshi Terashima, executive director of Japan's Nippon Foundation, said that Japan was the biggest loser in the piracy problem in the Straits of Malacca, to the tune of 3 billion yen ($24 million) over the past five years.

The tradition of piracy in the Straits, a narrow channel between Indonesia and Malaysia that links the Indian and Pacific oceans, has been compounded in recent years by well-financed syndicates who have "globalized" their crimes, Terashima said.

The problem could worsen if there is no proper framework for cooperation, an issue that Japan has pushed for in international meetings in recent years. About 80 percent of Japan's fleet of oil supertankers plies the Straits.

Indonesian and Philippine officials said that they were hampered by lack of equipment and vessels, worsened by political and economic turmoil in their countries.

A Filipino official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said piracy was "thriving" due to ransom money paid to Abu Sayyaf rebels for dozens of people they kidnapped off two Malaysian resort islands last year.

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RP, Sino boats in shoal standoff

By R. Nazareno

PHILIPPINE and Chinese Navy vessels reportedly came within "an alarming" missile range of each other at the disputed Scarborough Shoal early this month, a foreign affairs official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said "there were numerous Chinese Navy boats up against only two Filipino patrol boats" at a distance of only six miles.

Fortunately, only "sharp dagger looks" by way of binoculars figured in the exchange.

The revelation came as defense and military officials said they were investigating a reported Chinese naval buildup around another disputed territory, the Spratly island chain.

The military yesterday sent an aircraft to the Spratlys to verify press reports that Chinese warships had been sighted in the disputed area being claimed by the Philippines, China and four other Asian countries.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said there was no confirmation yet of the report, which appeared in the US-based Washington Times and was being quoted by Manila newspapers, that Beijing has sent over a dozen warships to the Spratlys.

Reyes said the defense department has to consult with the foreign affairs department as the Spratlys dispute was a matter that should be handled through diplomatic channels.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Vic Lecaros said the department was also asking for verification from the defense department.

"If it's true, it's a source of concern, of course," said Lecaros.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said he had not seen the US newspaper report but that the Philippines had always been aware of the presence of Chinese fishing vessels in the area.

"There is always a Chinese presence in the Kalayaan islands (the Philippines' name for the part of the Spratlys it lays claim to)," Villanueva told a news conference. "We are always monitoring them... As of now, those are anchored off certain places in that particular location."*With reports from Carlito Pablo, Christine Avendaño and AP and Reuters*

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MERCANTILE LAW (NEGOGIATING INSTRUMENTS LAW)—Accommodation party—An accommodation party is a person who has signed the instrument as maker, acceptor, or endorser, without receiving value therefore, and for the purpose of lending his name to some other person and is liable on the instrument to a holder for value, notwithstanding such holder at the time of taking the instrument knew (the signatory) to be an accommodation party. He has the right, after paying the holder, to obtain reimbursement from the party accommodated, since the relation between them has in effect become one of principal and surety, the accommodation party being the surety. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Agro Conglomerates, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No 117660, December 18, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Gloria, hubby worth ₱61M

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel, together own assets worth more than P61 million, most of it in cash but also including real estate and race horses.

The Office of the Ombudsman yesterday released a copy of the President's sworn statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) which she is required to file every year.

As of Dec. 31, 2000, the Arroyos claimed to have real properties valued at P3,537,837, the amount representing acquisition and improvements, and personal and other properties totaling P58,375,239.03.

The President's SALN included a loan from the BPI Family Bank to finance the purchase of a Kia Besta but the amount was not stated.

A posh condominium and a building in California, which the President had allegedly acquired while still a senator were not among the real properties listed in her SALN.

Ms Macapagal filed her SALN on Feb. 18, barely a month after taking over from jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

The couple's real properties include a "pro-divided" house and lot in Baguio City acquired in 1977 for P350,000 with cost improvements of P365,287; a residential lot in Antipolo City bought for P94,000 in 1986; a commercial lot in Tayabas, Quezon, purchased for P1 million in 1995; and agricultural lots in San Rafael, Bulacan and Nasugbu, Batangas.

The lot in Bulacan was bought for P1,178,550 in 1995 while the Batangas property cost P550,000 in 1997.

The Arroyos did not give the lot sizes and other details concerning these properties.

Although the Arroyos reported the value of their real properties based on acquisition cost, they also included the current fair market value of each.

The President's SALN stated the current value of these properties as follows: the Baguio property is now worth more than P67 million; the Antipolo lot, P1.75 million; Tayabas, P2.4 million; Bulacan, P4.7 million and the Batangas property, P1.5 million.

An impeachment case was filed last year against then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo alleging that she owned undeclared properties in the US.

Main petitioner Ric Valmonte alleged that Ms Macapagal deliberately excluded these properties from her SALN since she could not justify their purchase.

In a press conference at the House of Representatives last year, Valmonte even insinuated that Ms Macapagal might have used money given by illegal gambling operators to purchase the properties abroad.

His impeachment petition was ignored by the 11th Congress after the then vice president explained she and her husband only served as "caretakers" of these properties which actually belong to a brother of Mr. Arroyo.

Personal and other properties reported by the President include cash on hand and in banks totaling P36,364,872.03; race horses, P600,000; jewelry, P1.2 million; appliances and furniture, P550,000; law books, P1.5 million; shares of stock, P7.5 million; cars, P4.334 million; office equipment, ₱895,800 and "inherited properties in process of transfer" worth more than P5.4 million.

The President also disclosed business interests involving her husband.

These include LTA Inc. engaged in real estate; the Bacolod-based JJ Agricultural Corp., which is listed as an "agricultural family business" and LTA Realty which serves as a real estate agent.

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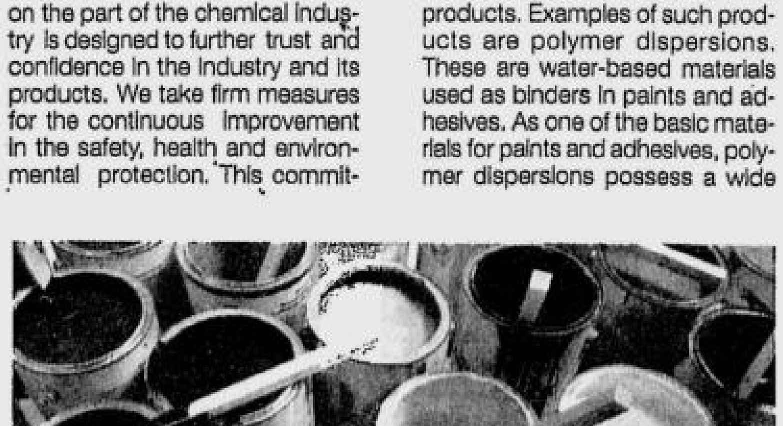
Steadfast in its commitment to sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources, BASF continues to provide innovative solutions to local, as well as global industries. In the words of Bruno Friesen, President and Managing Director of BASF Philippines, Inc., "We are pursuing our expansion plans vigorously, yet mindful of the need for sustainable development. Striking a balance between economy and ecology has long been a corporate philosophy of BASF."



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 27, 2001
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-12, 17-18
Gospel: Mt 7:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of false prophets: they come to you in sheep's clothing but inside they are wild wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Do you ever pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

A good tree always produces good fruit, a rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit and a rotten tree cannot bear good fruit. Any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So you will know them by their fruit."

Commentary:

When Matthew wrote his gospel there it was a time of utter confusion. It was not too long after the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple. The Jewish community was closing ranks and the first Christians, once part of this community, had to make a choice. True wisdom was needed more than ever, since the very existence of Christianity was at stake. It is in this context that Jesus warns against false leadership, and that he invites his disciples not to be naive but to look at reality from the proper perspective. They have to learn to distinguish between the forces that lead to life and those that lead to death. Today's situation shows remarkable similarities with the one that the Christian Community had to address at the time of Matthew.

Heavenly Father, as a Christian community we are also facing a deep crisis today. Give us the wisdom to follow the true leaders and to reject the false ones.

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Sual plant trips, sparks outages

THE SUAL coal generator yesterday tripped and caused other power plants to conk out leading to sporadic power outages in Metro Manila and Luzon.

The National Power Corp. said an air compressor in the Sual coal plant in Pangasinan malfunctioned causing an "instrumentation problem."

At the time of the tripping, Sual was running at 1,100 mw, Napocor said.

This caused a domino effect because a safety mechanism of Napocor's system caused other power plants in Luzon to also trip.

These include the 300-mw Masinloc 1 coal plant in Zambales, the 382-mw Pagbilao 2 coal plant in Quezon, the 30-mw Limay 8 diesel plant complex in Bataan and part of the 75-mw Makban geothermal plant in Laguna.

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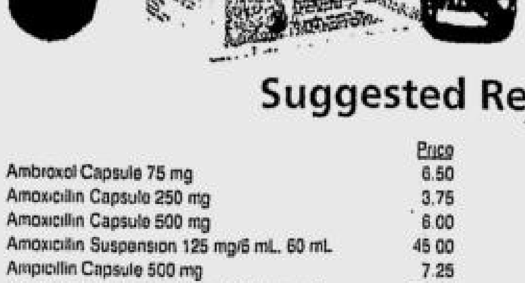

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Call Nani's bluff, farmers urge Gloria

By C. D. Balana

MILITANT farmers yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to accept the "threat" of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to resign if the farmer groups would not stop pressing for instant solutions to agrarian reform problems.

The 4,500-strong Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental, a peasant federation, also urged the President to take over DAR as concurrent secretary if she was serious in pushing for agrarian reform.

Negros Occidental is one of the problematic areas in agrarian reform. There are at least 105 haciendas in 15 municipalities in the province.

"We welcome Braganza's offer to resign if he already detects he could not perform his job well," said task force spokesperson Danilo Flores.

Flores was referring to Braganza's statement to the media on June 23 that he would quit his post if farmers' groups insist that he solve various problems besetting the land reform program immediately.

At the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo, Braganza argued that his four months in office was not enough to solve "centuries-old" problems and that he should be given "four centuries" to solve these problems.

"We are already used to Braganza's excuses that we are able to predict what he would say next," said Gregorio Paclibar, a 64-year-old farmer and president of the task force.

Paclibar recalled that in April when 15 of his members camped out in front of the DAR central office in Quezon city to push the department to resolve various agrarian reform cases, Braganza merely asked for patience, saying he was in office for only two months.

"Next month, we would surely hear him tell us to give him a chance since he is only five months in office, another chance on his sixth month, and so on," Paclibar continued.

Paclibar is a beneficiary of the 472-hectare Hacienda Velez-Malaga in Barangay Robels in central Negros town of La Castellana.

Flores said that Braganza's apologies do not spare him from resolving important issues on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which is set to finish in 2008.

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Escalating terror

EDITORIAL

THE DISCOVERY last Saturday of two headless bodies in Lantawan, Basilan, has raised to seven the number of hostages beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf since May 27 when it raided the Dos Palmas Resort and seized 20 hostages. There could be an eighth victim, but no one has come upon the body or head of Guillermo Sobero, an American whom Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said they had beheaded last June 12 as an Independence Day "gift" to the government. Sabaya has warned that more would be beheaded unless the government engages the services of two Malaysian nationals and a Filipino local official in negotiating the terms for the release of the 23 hostages it is now holding. More recently, Abu Sayyaf has also demanded that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez also be designated as a negotiator.

The designation of negotiators of its own choice is a long-standing demand of the Abu Sayyaf. In fact, the Macapagal administration at one time approved the proposal—to its great embarrassment and dismay. On the very day Malacañang announced its willingness to let the Malaysians negotiate,. Sabaya revealed that Sobero was dead. That forced the government to go back to its original policy of no negotiations, a position it has stuck to although it has become quite obvious that negotiations have been going on between the bandits and representatives of the families of some victims.

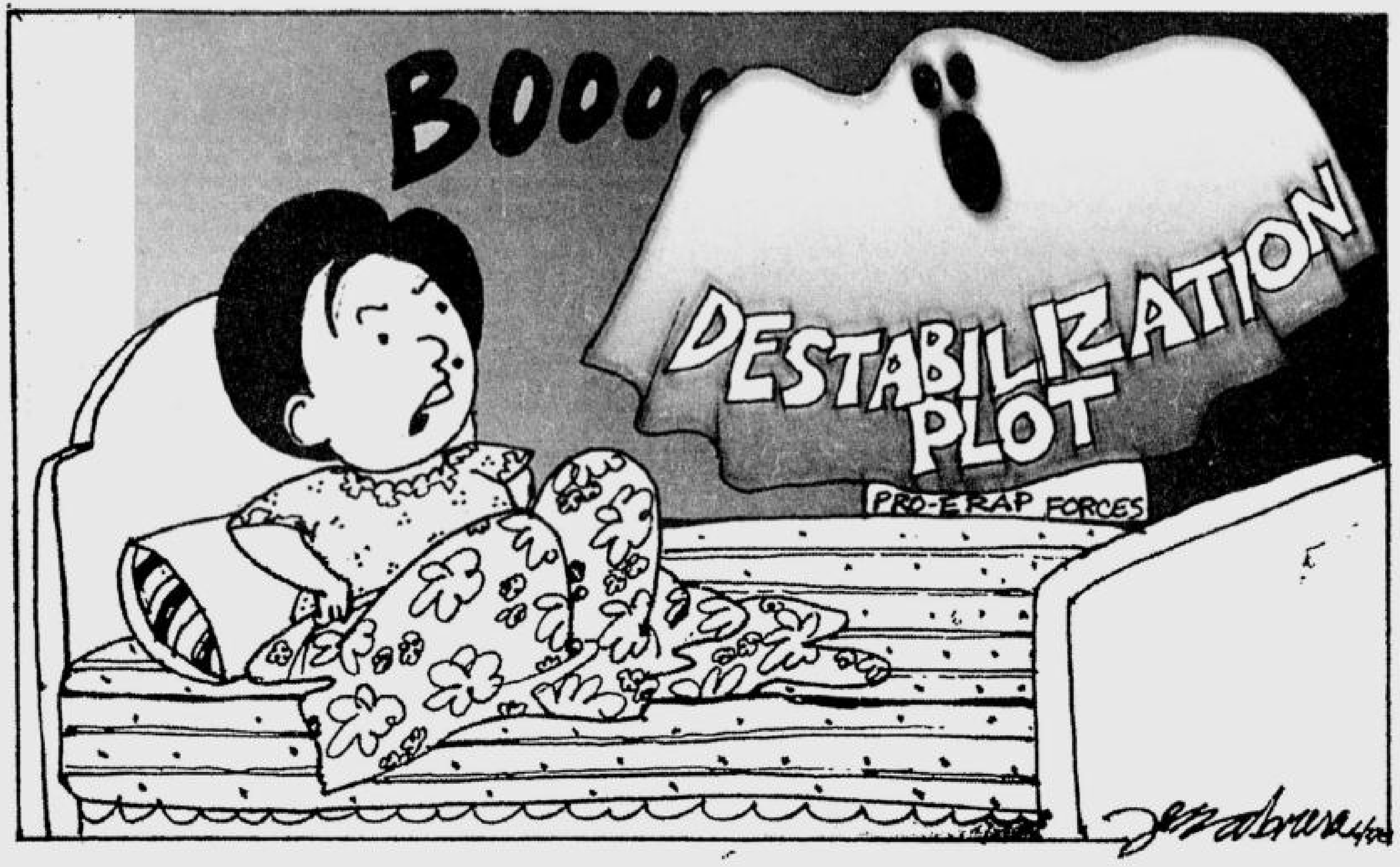
But if the Abu Sayyaf's insistence on talking to the two Malaysian appears to be rather puzzling initially, it shouldn't really come as a surprise to those who know their backgrounds. Sairin Karno, a former senator, and Yusof Hamdan, a businessman, were deeply involved in the negotiations for the release of several Malaysian and Western hostages abducted from a Malaysian resort on Sipadan Island last year. The lengthy negotiations, which saw the hostages being released in several batches, were believed to have led to the payment of as much as $40 million in ransom to the bandits. Sabaya and his cohorts obviously smell big money if they could bring Sairin and Hamdan back to negotiate the government's terms of surrender.

The choice of negotiators and the selection of victims in its current orgy of brutality once again reveal the mercenary character of this group of self-styled Islamic fundamentalist revolutionaries. Except for one soldier they had captured, all the hostages they have beheaded came from poor families. For instance, Armando Bayona, who was the first to be decapitated, worked as a security guard in Dos Palmas. The last two victims of beheading were Primitivo Falcasantos, chief of security of Golden Harvest Corp., and Crisanto Suela, a worker in the same plantation from where they and 11 others were abducted as the Abu Sayyaf retreated from pursuing government troops. Of course, it is entirely possible that the Abu Sayyaf considered them as threats since they were able-bodied men. But given the group's proven greed, it is more likely that they were used as cannon fodder in its war of nerves with the government and the families of the surviving hostages.

In raising the level of terror, the Abu Sayyaf is apparently trying to force the government and the relatives to give in to its demands, whatever they may be. What it may not have put into its calculation is that it would lead to the reactivation of vigilante groups in Basilan, like the Christian Brotherhood, which claims to have a membership of 3,000, and the dreaded Mundo Oscuro.

In this resurgence of vigilantism lies what is potentially a bigger problem than the Abu Sayyaf's depredations and kidnappings. Although ostensibly dedicated to defending their own communities, such Christian groups have been known to act like God's avenging angels, viciously cutting down infidels who get in the way.

For all the atrocities and provocations of the Abu Sayyaf, the last thing the government would want is a religious war. Notwithstanding the appeals of some local officials, the government should resist the temptation to train and arm such groups and use them in its war against the Abu Sayyaf. That would be like fighting fire with fire.



A proposed compromise for Mehan Gardens controversy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE DEBATE between Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and representatives of environmental NGOs at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday can be compared to an irresistible force colliding with an immovable object. The NGOs are opposing the mayor's plan to build a school in the Mehan Gardens, one of the last remaining green and open spaces in Manila. It was originally part of the Jardin Botanico, or the Royal Botanical Garden of Manila, which was established by the Spanish colonial government in 1858. It is located between City Hall and the Metropolitan Theater at the foot of Quezon Bridge, and between Taft Avenue and Arroceros Street. It has a total area of 42,447.70 square meters.

Mayor Atienza wants to sell the present site of the City College of Manila at the old PNB Building on the Escolta, which was bought by then Mayor Alfredo Lim. Atienza says the building is dilapidated, the elevators often break down and is not conducive to learning. Moreover, the city government is paying so much in interest alone for the loan used to buy the building. He wants to build a new City College in the Mehan Gardens.

The NGOs said the Mehan Gardens is needed as a lung for the polluted city as well as a recreation place for its residents. It is not conducive to learning, surrounded as it is by noise and pollution. Moreover, it is a historical and archeological site. There are other sites for a school, they said, such as the Ramon Avanceña High School in Tanduay, Quiapo, which can accommodate 2,000 students but has only 800. The Mehan Gardens should be preserved, the NGOs said, and they even offered to improve and develop it at no expense to the city government.

The Mehan Gardens are not the only green space at risk. The nearby Arroceros Forest Park, which was planted and nurtured by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation with millions of pesos provided by the Winner Foundation, a civic organization, will be the site of the offices of the Manila City Schools. The place used to be the compound of the national offices of the education department. It was bought by the city government and Mayor Lim turned it over for development to the Winner Foundation. The NGOs were incensed that now that the forest park is fully grown and being enjoyed by the people, another building would be constructed in it.

But Mayor Atienza said the lot belongs to the teachers. To buy it, Lim used the trust fund of the city teachers, which can be used "only for educational purposes." A mere memorandum of agreement between the mayor and the Winner Foundation, he said, cannot supersede the rights of the owners. And the owners want to use their property. And anyway, Atienza added, only a tiny portion of the forest park would be needed by the building and its architecture would blend with the leafy surroundings. It will be built around the trees, "you wouldn't even notice it," he said.

The mayor said he doesn't want to destroy both the Mehan Gardens and the Arroceros Forest Park but there is no place else to put the City College and the teachers' offices. He dared the NGOs to show him alternative sites.

I would like to throw these ideas for alternative sites to both the mayor and the NGOs.

Across Taft Avenue and the Muni golf links from Mehan Gardens is the Walled City of Intramuros which can be said to be an educational center of Manila. Four reputable universities are already there: Letran, Lyceum, Mapua and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. The rest of Intramuros is mostly a wasteland of ruins. Wouldn't it be better to put the City College there and contribute to the development of Intramuros? The deserted campus of the old University of Sto. Tomas on Aduana Street, where Jose Rizal and other illustrados studied, would be a good site. With such illustrious forebears, maybe the present day students would be encouraged to excel in their studies. The City College would complement the new education building on the Plaza del Gobernador, with the Manila Cathedral between them.

The Far East Bank now owns the lot, but maybe the city government can swap it with the old PNB Building on the Escolta which was designed and built for a bank in the first place.

Another alternative site is the lot—still part of Mehan Gardens—nearest City Hall. It is separated from the rest of Mehan Gardens by a street. It used to be the site of the Manuel Roxas High School, later known as the Manila High School. There are no trees here; it is just one slab of concrete being used as a parking lot and with some one-story edifices.

Why not use this lot as the site of the City College, the administration building, and the proposed parking building? Give the city teachers one whole floor in the administration building.

This will free the rest of Mehan Gardens and the Arroceros Forest Park as greenery. When there are shows at the Metropolitan Theater, cars can park under the trees. As added recreation areas, put park benches on the green islands beside and below the flyovers on Plaza Lawton.

During the excavation of the lot for the foundation of the City College, archeologists of the National Museum can be on site to safeguard and supervise the excavation of artifacts.

I think this is a good compromise. It would give Mayor Atienza his City College campus and it would preserve the green spaces of the NGOs. The ultimate beneficiaries would be the students and the rest of the residents of Manila and environs. That should make everybody happy.

The mayor and the NGOs cannot have everything they each want. There has to be a give and take, a compromise. This is it.

Languages

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado
de Quiros

I'VE gotten a recurring letter from readers over the past half year, after writing columns variously about the impeachment trial, Edsa II and "Edsa III." Which is: why don't I write in Tagalog or Filipino so I can reach the *masa*? I keep talking about the need to understand and communicate to the *masa*, so why don't I use a language the *masa* understands and uses?

The point is well taken. But just a few things about it:

First off, the INQUIRER is an English-language publication, which caters to English-language readers. I do not know that it can be persuaded into going bilingual, or devoting a page or two, if not an entire section, to writing in Tagalog or Filipino. Maybe if enough people wrote the editors to demand such a pass?.

I do write in Tagalog, or Filipino, although my cradle language is Bicol, or Bikol, as the language is spelled there. I learned it in my activist days, from reading and writing manifestos. In the mid-'70s, I drifted into a publication called Sagisag Magazine, which was organized by Bienvenido Lumbera, the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Literature some years ago, and wrote more intensively in Filipino in it. At that point in fact, I thought I'd no longer write in English. I wrote several poems and a three-act play (which won in the Palanca) in Filipino.

I do not know how I would fare writing in Filipino these days. I wrote the preface to Jess Abrera's book, "A. Lipin," a collection of his comic strips, late last year, and I had to sweat it out. The rust was thick, and it was all I could do to dust it off in a hurry. In the INQUIRER itself, I've written in Filipino only a couple of times. Both were letters addressed to Erap, and I used Filipino, as I said in those columns, *para magkaintidihan kami*. I don't know that he read it or understood it. Looking back, I might have done Filipino a terrible disservice.

Second off, I don't know that the *masa* naturally reads Filipino more than English. I don't know that the *masa* reads for the most part to begin with. Literacy in this country remains a humongous problem. There is a whole universe of difference between oral Filipino and written Filipino. Most Filipinos speak Filipino, which has compelled the networks to convert to it in their news and commentary. It is a rare TV talk show or news program now that resolutely clings to English. But most Filipinos do not read in Filipino, they read in English. Which has made serious publications in Filipino a tremendously risky venture. Diyaryo Filipino and Diyaryo Uno, the precursors of Pinoy Times, folded up for lack of sufficient readership. I am glad in this respect that Pinoy Times is doing very well: Its circulation rose during the impeachment trial and Edsa II.

One qualification here is that there is a thriving market for *komiks* and popular romance novels in Filipino. Someone told me once that at their height, romance novels in Filipino outsold their counterparts in English five to one. *Komiks* is *masa* country but romance novels are middle class turf altogether, particularly catering to female students and young lower or middle-level professionals.

What all this signifies is that the value of writing in Filipino—and I will be first in line to argue for its value—does not lie in being able to reach the *masa*. It lies in helping to persuade the middle class, and probably even the elite, of this country to read in it. The people who bought Pinoy Times wholesale late last year to distribute to offices were not the *masa*, they were the middle class and elite. The incalculable value of writing in Filipino, to put it another way, lies in turning Filipino into a language for serious discourse and not merely for sitcoms. Maybe it will also get you some readership among the *masa*, but it doesn't follow.

Which brings me finally to the most important point here. That is that communicating to the *masa* is not just a question of syntax and vocabulary, it is a question of sense and sensibility. When I say that we should learn to speak the language of the *masa*, I mean it in more ways than that we should speak Tagalog, or Visayan, or Ilokano. Of course, in oral or conversation form, it helps mightily that you speak to them in those languages. But that by itself doesn't guarantee you will be understood by them. Not if you talk in a different "language," or the language of the academe, the business community or even civil society, which is not always very civil in that respect. You will be speaking, as Shakespeare put it, Greek to them.

I remember in this respect an effort by a group some time ago to try to explain the nature of multinationals to a popular audience. The group hit on a brilliant idea, which was to put it in *komiks* form. Alas, the brilliance was lost in the fact that although the format was *komiks*, the situation was not dramatic nor was the language the typical language of *komiks*. Rather than dramatizing the point, this particular *komiks* had cardboard figures explaining the meaning of multinationals in dialogue balloons in the language of manifestos. In short, the form was popular but the sense and sensibility were not. Not surprisingly, the effort failed to draw the huge audiences its authors expected. Using a language the *masa* speaks and using a language the *masa* understands are two different things.

The language the *masa* speaks and understands is the language of stories, of parables, of myths. I thought Juan Flavier did a wonderful job several years ago writing a column that told parables. Jesus Christ himself, master of the genre, might have applauded. Quite apart from this, there is one phenomenon we might want to look at more carefully, as a lesson in how to communicate to the *masa*.

That is the impeachment trial. I've always thought that trial was a magnificent thing in that it combined elements of reason and emotion, logic and passion, legalism and storytelling, high finance and soap opera, politics and melodrama, history and myth. It wasn't just the revelations about Erap's secret account that did him in—most people probably did not understand what on earth the bank officials were talking about. It was the sheer drama of ordinary individuals risking life and limb to take on the most powerful official of the land. That is something that resonates deeply in the Filipino psyche: Erap himself made it to the presidency on the strength of that archetype. The lesson of the impeachment trial is not that law itself can be understood by the *masa* if repeated long enough. It is that the significance of the law itself can be grasped by the *masa* if told in stories closest to their heart.

It's time we learned to tell stories all over again.

Manila mayor destroys its heritage

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST Monday, Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila placed a full-page ad in the newspapers celebrating the 430th anniversary of the founding of what Legazpi called the "distinguished and ever loyal city of Manila"—the jewel of the Spanish colonial possessions in the Orient on the Spanish side of the Treaty of Tordesillas.

The theme of the ad was "Manila looking back and moving forward." Next to it was the picture of a smirking Atienza, encircled like a target for a bulls-eye in a shooting gallery. Atienza has a reason to smirk, as we shall see.

The intro of the ad says (and I am quoting it verbatim not because it is elegant but because it reveals much about Atienza's view of things): "Historians would probably tell you that Manila had two periods that could be considered the salad days of the city—the pre-war period, where it was known as the bastion of gentility, and the post-war period, the reconstruction years after World War II."

Well, the period of gentility, which made Manila famous as the "Paris of the Orient" at the turn of the century, is receding from view and if Atienza has his way, we won't have a memory of the past by the time he ends his term.

There will be nothing left to "look back" to. Atienza claims he is "moving (Manila) forward," and this is entirely correct. He is "moving forward," obliterating Manila's national and historical heritage with a bulldozer. The current victim of this marauding assault on the city's heritage at the hands of its mayor is the Mehan Gardens, known to citizens as the former Botanical Garden, founded in 1858, when municipal officials were more civilized.

The ad tells more about Atienza's mentality toward national heritage, appreciation of which gives us pride in our history and culture, than about his claimed achievements that filled the page.

City Hall has cut up the 24,000 square-meter Mehan Gardens (roughly a little over two hectares) into three parts—8,000 sq. m., as the site of the City Colleges of Manila; 6,000 sq. m., as the site of a parking terminal; and the rest (10,000 sq. m.) for purposes he has been hiding from the public.

At the Kapihan last Monday at Manila Hotel, Atienza was asked about the contract for the parking terminal project—in particular, was there a public bidding; who won the tender; and under what terms.

He refused to reveal information as though the contract was something like the highly classified atomic bomb development project that affected the security of the globe. I understand from sources inside City Hall that this contract could blow up in his face.

Atienza admitted that he was ejecting the Manila City Colleges from its venue in the old PNB Building on the Escolta because he was selling it as prime real estate property. So, we now know that the reason for the ejection is not that the building has been condemned as unsafe; the reason is he wants to raise cash. When he was asked who would buy a condemned building, he could not answer. But Atienza is determined to build a new MCC on the Mehan Gardens—a historical heritage—and has closed his eyes to any other alternative site, although the city has several other pieces of property in Manila. Why he is so fixated on the Mehan Gardens may be explained by his obsession to obliterate Manila's historical and cultural treasures. Only recently, the art deco Jai-Alai Building representing a period in the city's history, disappeared from history when he had it demolished to make way for a modern, ugly building. Somehow, Atienza has considered it his electoral mandate to destroy Manila's historical landmarks; and open spaces, with green landscapes and trees, are anathema to him.

It is hard to understand why Atienza is siting a campus next to a parking terminal that is not only an eye-sore but also a source of pollution like a permanent blower emitting toxic fumes to students. To use a metaphor, Atienza would be putting the students of the MCC next to a gas chamber the way the Nazis exterminated their inmates—only that the lethal effect of pollutants is less immediate.

When Atienza was told he had broken laws, including presidential decrees forbidding altering or destroying historical landmarks declared as such by the National Historical Institute, he asked citizens to show him the law. He said his research staff did not find the law. The citizens protesting against the creeping annihilation of the capital's historical treasures are ready to show the laws to him, together with a magnifying glass just in case he gives the pretext that his sight is poor. Citizens groups have furnished him copies of the relevant laws, but he claims he has not seen them, that's why he asked them, "where's the law?"

Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it. Atienza's refuge in ignorance of the law reveals his attitude toward the importance of preserving the disappearing historical landmarks of Manila. Of all Philippine cities, Manila has the most historical landmarks telling us about its ambience and about our history during Spanish colonial times. It is a museum in itself, and Manila's mayors are expected to preserve its cultural wealth rather than be instruments of its obliteration. Atienza was not elected to be the exterminator of Manila's historical treasures and legacy.

The preservation of Manila's cultural and historical treasures cannot be reduced into a matter of legal hair-splitting. If a mayor has a sensitivity to the historical treasures of his city, there's no need to look for laws mandating their preservation. It becomes a matter of priority rather than legality to save the city's heritage.

Atienza speaks about helping the poor with educational facilities. They can be helped by giving the new college a venue that does not obliterate a national heritage. The city does not want for alternatives for a venue. By building the college next to a pollution factory—the parking terminal—Atienza is putting the children of the poor at risk because of the fumes. Atienza can do this to them because they are poor anyway.

Birth certificates and the NSO 'Helpline'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SO it turns out it's not just my house help who need help regarding their birth certificates (see "At Large" June 23 issue).

Gene Bueno, who hails from Aroroy, Masbate says that "any president of the Philippines who could make it easy for the poor, or anybody for that matter, to deal with the government, e.g. pay taxes, secure certificates, licenses, permits, clearances, etc. and receive some degree of courtesy and understanding...would be the greatest president of the Philippines. The standard for greatness is not really that high if one has what it takes. Why can't President Macapagal see this? This problem is very real in the provinces."

From Toronto, Jose Maniquis would like to know if there isn't "a law that requires these medical professionals to report to the government, or in this case to the local registrar, the record of birth? Don't you think the midwife should have been reported to the Professional Regulatory Board, for appropriate action and if warranted, de-licensing?"

Maniquis suggests that "the government should allow issuance of application forms by mail or by phone calls directly to the Statistics Office, any fees shall be by money order or direct deposits."

Last I heard, the National Statistics Office has begun offering such a service, allowing citizens to apply for necessary documents through the phone or online, then pay a courier service to deliver the documents to their residences. No need for crowding and standing in long lines at the NSOs, no need for fixers or for dealing with surly clerks! I've been hearing many good things about this innovation in government service. A message from a reader who requests anonymity (his and his family's documents are still being held "hostage" by the NSO, he pleads) indicates, though, that many problems remain before we can say with certainty that government service has entered the 21st century.

* * *

HERE'S the reader's rather complicated complaint (bear with us):

"You see, Ms. David, I and my family have plans to move abroad and we have to collate all needed documents (births and marriage) for the application. My father just recently applied at the NSO for his own (and my mom's) set of birth documents, as well as their marriage certificate—a total of three sets...He found a more convenient alternative—that is, applying through the NSO Helpline (737-1111). They promised delivery within three weeks (or 15 working days) after my father deposited his payment (P175 per document) with any Metrobank branch. He called in the specifics (including the Metrobank payment slip information) and was surprised to receive a "package" exactly 15 days later. This contained only their marriage certificate, though. After another week waiting for the rest of the 'package,' he inquired on the status of the remaining request (737-1112) and was informed that it was on the way.

"When the awaited 'packages' arrived, each contained a 'negative' result, meaning that the NSO did not have the copies of my parents' birth certificates, apparently lost due to the ravaging of Manila in the last World War. Attached to each 'negative' document was a receipt for P25."

* * *

WHILE conceding that the "Helpline" is "indeed a great innovation and convenience" compared to joining the hordes at the NSO, the reader wants to know why the cost of P175 per document or copy paid to Metrobank is not accurately reflected in the receipts. Or why each transaction, even if it deals with the same documents, is still charged a uniform rate of P175.

When the reader called the "Helpline" regarding his father's documents, he was informed that if an applicant receives a "negative" result, the applicant has to request a certificate from the local civil registry office (LCRO) of the place of birth. He then must return to the NSO to have the certificate authenticated. This even if they had already paid for the "Helpline Advantage." And when filing the request for a certificate from the LCRO, one has to present the NSO's "negative" result so the LCRO certificate could be duly noted and "transmitted" (through an attached transmittal) to the NSO. (Still with me?)

Our reader says that he may not have as hard a time getting his documents as his father (since the reader was born after 1950), but he's still leery of confronting the bureaucratic monster. Dear reader, can you imagine what barriers poor, simple folk, like my house help, would have to hurdle to deal with the rigmarole you just described? By the way, if you don't want to take advantage of the NSO "Helpline," you can also try getting the documents you need in person, for a mere P40 per document.

* * *

ANOTHER reader, Val Valmonte from Seattle, Washington, says there are ways even humble folk, such as himself and his father, can go around the bureaucratic maze.

Valmonte says he was born with the assistance of a *hilot* and was not registered with either the civil registrar or the parish. He had no problem with schooling "since the residents and teachers know each other." The problem with his birth certificate surfaced only in 1976 when he had a chance to migrate to the United States.

"I remember spending a lot of time going to different places, i.e.: school principal, provincial registry, Catholic church, election registrar, etc. to no avail," writes Valmonte. "The onus of it all was so aggravating until my father (he was a 5th grade educated farmer) suggested the impossible. He gathered a list of neighbors, witnesses and relatives and let them sign an affidavit attesting that I was born on such date, such place and on such time. We presented the attestation/petition to the municipal registrar. The municipal registrar, in turn issued an affidavit addressed to any concerned." Apparently, this worked, as Valmonte is now in the United States.

Watersheds of change

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ON JAN. 27, 1927 15-year-old Victoria Charles was arrested by police detective Townsend for "indecent acts." The poor girl had fallen asleep on a carromata on Avenida Rizal and had not noticed that her skirt—too short to start with—had risen over her knees. She spent the night crying in Bagumbayan jail until she was released next day on the orders of Municipal Court Judge Jose A. del Prado. Reading this bit of old news today makes me wonder—was the police detective really on the prowl for people doing so-called indecent acts? Didn't he have better things to do like arrest criminals? Was Charles homeless? Was she suspected to be a prostitute? If so, why wasn't she booked for vagrancy as the police do today when they (forgive the pun) pick up women with short skirts, tight tops and high heels loitering on cruising areas. There is more to this case than tolerance of a short hemline.

Part of the Manila city ordinance used on Charles reads: "No person shall stay or present in any street or open space in the public view, nor aboard any boat, launch, casco or any medium of transport by water with a indecent or dishonest dress...one cannot expose your person indecently nor do any other indecent act with dishonest, immoral or insulting language or conduct..." As this was quite broad, who was to determine what was indecent? Commenting on the Charles case the Free Press asked whether the *bodabil* shows—often *risqué*—were indecent? Why was Charles arrested for carelessly (she was asleep remember) raising her skirt above her knees, when bathers on the Luneta in "one-piece bathing suits" were ignored? How come lovers kissing openly and publicly (at least in a dark moviehouse) were not dragged to court as well? What were the limits of public morality?

Like suffrage, short skirts were a watershed for Filipinas who were born and raised on a distorted Maria Clara image so far from what Rizal created. In Chapter 24 of the "Noli" Father Salvi, hidden in the bushes, watches Maria Clara and friends wade in a stream:

"Their legs were wet up to the knees, the wide folds of their bathing skirts outlining the gracious curves of their thighs. Their hair hung loose and their arms were bare...Pale and motionless (Father Salvi) watched this chaste Diana: his sunken eyes glistening at the sight of her beautifully molded white arms, the graceful neck ending in a suggestion of a bosom. The diminutive rosy feet playing in the water aroused strange sensations and feelings in his impoverished starved being and made him dream of new visions in his fevered mind."

Rizal and other 19th-century writers comment on women being so well wrapped that exposed heels and feet half covered by embroidered or beaded *tsinelas* became so erotic. Slippers were made of red felt that either reflected on the exposed heels or stained them a certain shade from red to pink. Compared to Maria Clara and her heels, women on a beach today truly leave little to the imagination. Heels were so desirable that in 1927 the Free Press noted that some women who still sported the *balintawak* outfit were too impatient to get their exposed heels the right color from *bakya* and *tsinelas* they painted them red as their lips!

Another turning point in Philippine society began in a hospital when Aurora Quezon had just given birth to Manuel Quezon Jr. Since no photo opportunity was allowed, photographers clicked away at well-wishers in the lobby. What started as a joke on Arsenio Luz turned into a forum on male beauty contests. A photo caption in 1926 reads: "The genial director general of the Philippine Carnival and organizer of the First National Beauty pageant is the first candidate in the proposed Free Press beauty contest for men." Readers' reactions are fascinating in the context of male pageants today. My favorite opinions were those that warned against breeding effeminate men and these two:

Antonio Franco, Manila: "I do not know what kind of civilization we will have when men do nothing but try to look beautiful and women seek none except handsome men. A beauty contest for men? Terrible, horrible! In this age of hard go-getting, stern competition and keen struggle for existence, one cannot play the role of the he-man and at the same time be a nose-powdered, pampered, mollycoddle Adonis."

Josefina Sotto, Gasan (Marinduque) Ladies Club: "When our countrymen set foot in America and Europe they are seldom, if ever, taken as Filipinos. usually they are thought of as Chinese or Japanese. This is because the real, typical Filipino is practically unknown in those countries. They think Filipinos are like the Negritos and other Philippine mountain people they often see in books and magazines and on postcards. I do not deny that Negritos are Filipinos but I will never, nor will you, admit that they are typical Filipinos. So in order to wipe this erroneous (idea) from the minds of foreigners, I advocate a beauty contest for men, so that with proper publicity the Filipinos may never again be mercilessly mistaken for Chinese or Japanese or taken as savages."

Hemlines, pink heels and male beauty are but signposts on the march of history and the changing of tastes and times.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Raffles, quiz shows, promos etc.

HIGH BLOOD

Mrs. Francisca Ancheta-Licuanan

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

WHO has not dreamed of winning millions, a furnished house and lot, a car, trips and vacations here and abroad, bedroom, dining, living room and kitchen showcases and others?

Thanks to the sweepstakes, the lotto, raffles, quiz shows, various contests and promos, these are now within the reach of all.

In fact, I know some of those very lucky people who have received such windfalls.

Shortly before World War II, our next door neighbor from Batangas won first prize in the sweepstakes. Unfortunately, the family splurged and squandered their wealth, especially the *padre de familia*, on wine, women and song. They lost almost everything in less than a year.

More recently, another sweepstakes winner was the bachelor-janitor in the school where I taught. Fortunately, he invested wisely and got married.

A good friend and fellow teacher won a furnished house and lot in a subdivision in Quezon City plus a brand new car in a raffle sponsored by a company whose name is closely associated with baby powder and other health care products.

Another neighbor, a physician, won a brand new car in a raffle sponsored by a medical association.

Only last year, a security guard in the school where my sister taught won several millions in the lotto. We learned he was planning to buy a building in Binondo to be rented out.

Many more millionaires have been featured on TV, radio and print ads. With the present kidnap-for-ransom cases, many lotto and sweepstakes winners prefer to remain anonymous.

And so, my two sisters, a brother and I also started trying our luck in various contests when we were still in school. Then, we were even bold enough to be studio contestants in radio quiz shows. Yes, radio only, since there was no TV yet in the country.

Participating in quiz shows inspired me to study harder in order to win. The highly motivated habit must have helped a lot to enable me to graduate with honors in high school and in college.

Of course, we didn't always win in those quiz programs. One particular question I missed was the Tagalog for electric light which is *ilaw dagitab*. Come to think of it, who ever uses such term now?

Coming home with the bacon were always joyous occasions. Our daily allowance increased a little and things we longed to own but couldn't afford to buy yet were eventually purchased as souvenirs of our winnings. A prized item which we bought from a then very famous department store on the Escolta was an alarm clock which, instead of just ringing, played a portion of the Philippine National Anthem to wake us up (a nationalistic way to start the day).

When we finished our schooling and started working and until now, our participation has been limited to being home partners or participants only. We send our entries personally or by mail, by phone, through drop boxes and lately by fax or e-mail.

Winning in raffles is not that easy. In addition to sheer luck, (imagine competing against thousands of other hopefuls) patience, extra effort in preparing as many entries as we can and a lot of optimism are needed to win, extra cash, too, to finance the grocery list that gets longer due to the sponsor's products and the quantity larger for more entries to increase our chances of winning.

There were times when we had to be glued to certain TV programs or listened to the radio to be able to answer their questions correctly. We also bought newspapers and magazines that published coupons to be filled up and sent as entries. We regularly patronize supermarkets and other establishments that issue raffle coupons for their promos in exchange for receipts or proofs of purchase. We maintain at least the minimum average daily balance specified in contest rules of some banks to qualify in their raffles.

From time to time, we bet on the lotto, the sweepstakes and buy raffle tickets issued by religious, civic and educational institutions during their fund raising.

In the case of slogan contests, some imagination and creativity were our only capital.

We have lost track of the number of entries we have dropped, but the few times we won were compensation enough for the effort and money spent.

After all these years, what dreams have we realized so far?

Three scrapbooks containing clippings about us and my published articles, letters and telegrams, some original and mostly Xerox copies (sponsors now get back their letters or telegrams upon our claiming the prize) informing us of the good news, help refresh my memory regarding such happy events.

We have won some cash (no millions yet) most of which was quickly used to buy more products for more entries. We have enjoyed some free trips and vacations both here and abroad. My most memorable prize was the all-expense-paid trip for two to Melbourne, Australia with some pocket money and free passes to the 1997 Australian Open, courtesy of the natural spring from the French Alps, the official bottled water of that big sporting event in Australia. My brother and I excitedly watched live such tennis stars as Pete Sampras, Martina Hingis, Mary Pierce, Thomas Muster, and others play in the huge National Tennis Center, a multi-purpose stadium with a retractable roof. Because of this once-in-a lifetime experience, we have become tennis fans, following yearly, via cable TV the Australian Open, French Open, US Open and Wimbledon.

Our other winnings included appliances, toys, gift certificates, watches, clocks, books, magazines, umbrellas, T-shirts, caps with sponsors logos, passes to movie houses and other recreational facilities and resorts and of course, samples of the sponsors' various products.

In the slogan contest conducted by the Philippine National Red Cross in celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1997, I fortunately won second prize, an improvement of my previous record of honorable mention in 1954, (sponsored by a food company) and seventh prize in 1971 (sponsored by a health care product). Incidentally, my brother and nephew were consolation prize winners in the Red Cross contest.

Claiming prizes gave us the rare opportunity to visit some TV stations, various companies, factories, offices and advertising agencies. As one of the winners, I once appeared live to receive my prize in a noontime show on television.

Recently, the presentation of prizes to us winners was video taped in the sponsor's office and later shown on an evening musical program.

My trip to Australia was even featured (one whole page with my photo taken in the jampacked Tennis Center) in a local weekly magazine in its July 23,1997 issue.

The ecstasy of winning and the enjoyment while utilizing the prizes have somehow served us balm to soothe whatever pains we have encountered due to failures, disappointments and betrayals.

These varied experiences have added some thrill, excitement and spice to my ordinary, sometimes even ho hum existence as a mother, public school teacher and now, a retiree.

Although the family has yet to win even a million, a furnished house and lot, or a car, we already consider ourselves very fortunate and will always be grateful to God and the sponsors for all the blessings that have come our way..

Since we are firm believers of positive thinking, we will continue participating in contests as long as we can. Who knows, Lady Luck might smile on us again and grant us more and bigger prizes this year.

In the meantime, we will eagerly await the arrival of a telegram or a letter or a phone call which usually begins with, "Congratulations! You just won...."

And, if this article is published, it will be another dream come true for me to read my by-line in the INQUIRER. It will also fill another page in our family scrapbook.

Mrs. Francisca Ancheta-Licuanan is 65, a retired Manila public elementary school teacher.

What does healing the nation require?

WHILE our attention is drawn toward the sporadic increase in kidnapping cases in Manila, Joseph Estrada's lawyers are succeeding in keeping him out of his detention cell. With the Abu Sayyaf hostage drama, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems to have found a good excuse to avoid the issue of Estrada's continued special treatment.

"Temporary confinement" is how they call it, but the essence is still the same though on a temporary basis: hospital arrest. It is ironic that this happened a day after doctors from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center declared that he was fit to travel back to Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Then in a roundabout way, they issued another medical certificate allowing the ousted president's stay in the hospital for practicality reasons. Hospitals are built for the sick and not to serve as halfway houses. Estrada's health status does not require his continued stay at the said hospital. His condition is neither life threatening nor special. Many smokers and chain-smokers alike suffer the same thing. In fact, his Sta. Rosa detention cell would do his lungs better along with adopting a healthy lifestyle and giving up his vices. If Sandiganbayan deems it fit to have Mr. Estrada in VMMC, then the government should transfer all jail inmates who have more serious health problems in hospitals as well. Better yet, they should build hospitals or at least better infirmaries in national prison centers all over the country. To argue his stay at VMMC as a matter of practicality due to the distance from Sta. Rosa to Sandiganbayan is not sufficient. Why not place him in the New Bilibid Prison instead where he should have been detained in the first place, VMMC is a hospital, not a jailhouse.

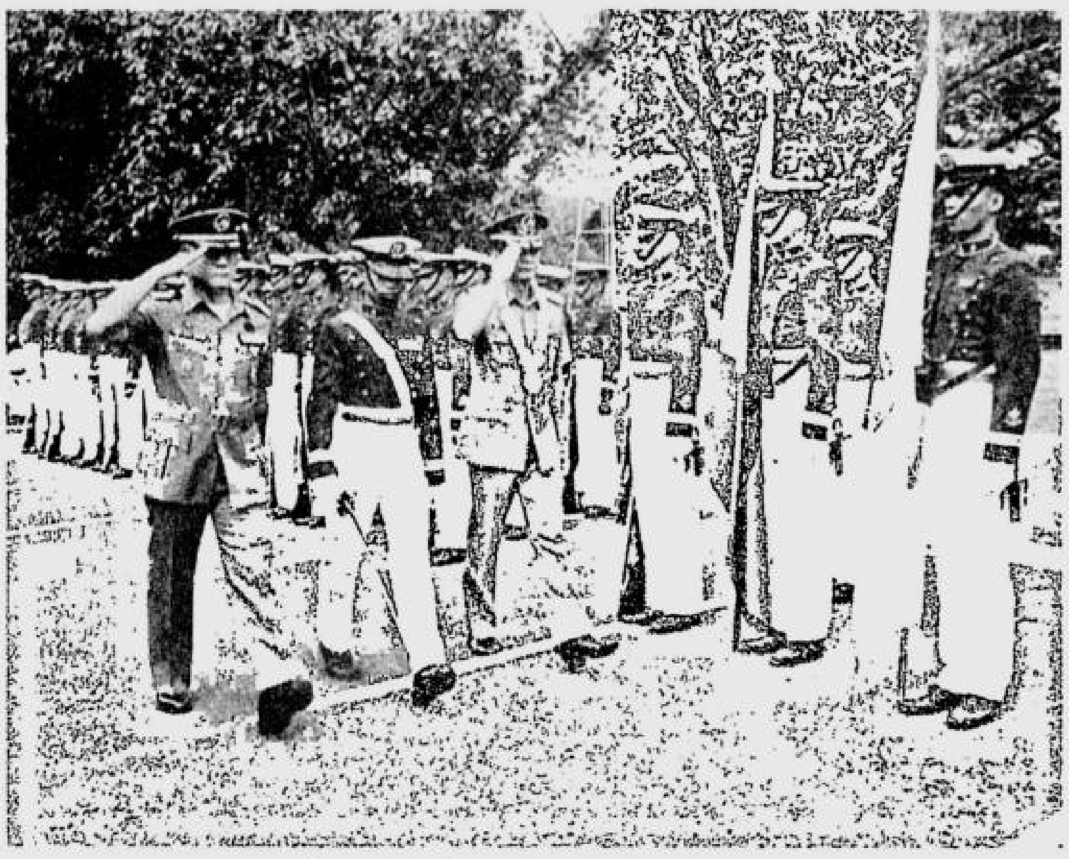
Lest President Macapagal forgets, healing our nation takes more than just showing an unrelenting and firm stance against the Abu Sayyaf, or striking compromises on Estrada's arrest or keeping mum on the said issue to appease the political opposition.

Recent developments such as the passing of the Omnibus Power Bill, oil price hike, water and electricity hikes have all been detrimental to the mental, physical and social health of our people.

Healing our nation's wounds would require proper diagnosis of what truly makes our nation sick, and of course addressing it with the proper treatment. Healing is about giving our people what is due them; real justice in the form of genuine land reform, across-the-board wage increase, abolition of policies that are anti-people and anti-worker, greater and wider access to quality health service and education, employment through creation of new jobs by supporting the creation of genuine national industries, commitment and sincerity on the part of the government in the ongoing peace-talks, the country's withdrawal from the WTO's GATT, and the prosecution of the former president who bled our nation dry.

If Estrada's ordinary cough could merit such special treatment from the present administration, could we expect the same or even better action from our government where our country's holistic health condition is concerned?—**PIA JOY C. CAMPO, 26 Pangilinan Ave., Pangilinan Compound, Proj. 6, Quezon City**

ROTC a source of military officers



ARTICLE XVI, General Provisions, Sec. 4 of the Constitution states: "The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be composed of a citizen armed force which shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law. It shall keep a regular force necessary for the security of the State."

Other than the Philippine Military Academy and individual enlistments in the Armed Forces, the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and the training of 20-year-old citizens are the sources of officers and men in the AFP. Due to financial constraints, the annual training of 20-year-old citizens has apparently been discontinued. This leaves the ROTC to provide trained men for the AFP.

Recently, Mark Chua, an ROTC cadet of the University of Sto. Tomas, was murdered. The case opened a can of worms exposing irregularities and anomalies perpetrated by officers and men assigned to conduct and supervise ROTC activities in UST. Chua exposed these venalities and was allegedly murdered by the malefactors.

The truth is, these venalities have been going on for decades in various colleges and universities. While the murder of Chua is deplorable, the victim did the country a lot of good with his exposé.

Predictably, as an aftermath, several school administrators have called for the abolition of the ROTC. We who have gone through college are very much aware of the disdain shown by school administrators for the ROTC. It is an added burden to them since they have to provide physical accommodations and parade grounds, etc. They are aware of the shenanigans in the ROTC department, but simply ignore them. Their call for the abolition of the ROTC is really their way of shirking a duty mandated by the Constitution.

The defense secretary and the AFP chief of staff should order a full-dress investigation of all irregularities in the ROTC program and punish all guilty parties. They should order the retraining of all officers and men to be assigned to conduct and supervise the ROTC program. Training in the ROTC should go beyond the manual of arms, parades, etc. Emphasis should be laid on combat training. Hazing and tight-fitting fatigues should be eliminated.—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City**

Challenge to a Senate bloc

IT is quite disturbing to hear former ABS-CBN broadcasters-turned-senators deny belonging to their erstwhile bosses' bloc. Well, they all have the right to say all those things, besides, we are in a free country.

But we will believe their brave words if they are coupled with braver deeds. If there is truly no ABS-CBN party at the Senate then we expect them to prove that they don't have any political debts to the media giant.

Unknown to many people, there are ABS-CBN employees (yes, that includes the cameramen responsible for our being informed about the day's news) who have been serving the media firm for several years already but are still called "talents." And they are called talents not to denote skill but because they do not have security of tenure. In other words, they are casual employees and it is clear that they should have been absorbed instead as regulars by the company considering the longevity of their employment

We do not expect this to be taken as proof of labor law violations but the people count on the new senators to investigate the grave problem of casualization and contractualization with ABS-CBN talents as a primary example.

This shall be our challenge to Senators Noli de Castro, Francis Pangilinan, Loren Legarda-Leviste and Rene Cayetano. And if they ignore this issue regarding the plight not just of ABS-CBN employees but of all casual and contractual workers, we will consider their silence as wholesale collaboration.—**ERWIN PUHAWAN, national chair, Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino (KAMPI), 47 Masikap St., Teachers Vill., Bgy. Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City**

Waiting for PVAO pension

I AM a PVAO claimant for old age pension. I received a letter informing me that my pension was processed and would follow soon. I have been waiting but up to the present I have received nothing after the letter.

May I know what happened? Is my pension lost? Or was it given to the wrong person?—**KAMID NAWAL, Pagangan, Aleosan, North Cotabato**

At the mercy of market forces

WHILE the Macapagal administration is busy with mosquitoes—the Abu Sayyaf, the National Democratic Front, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the plunderers and various criminal groups—the *pusali* which manufactures them is becoming more putrid.

This *pusali* is the economy. Thanks to globalization-driven market forces, more and more Filipinos are losing their businesses and jobs as the prices of goods and services inexorably spiral upward. For more and more Filipinos, living has become an ordeal, a mounting oppression.

In a recent press conference, President Macapagal said her administration believes in market forces and would not do anything to arrest the alarming fall of the peso. Is it the policy of the government to leave the fate of the millions who are unemployed, sick, out of school and homeless—all victims of globalization—to market forces?

Under this administration, is the destiny of the Filipino nation now in the hands of market forces?—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 144 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

The world has changed the Church

MANY years ago, Catholics were taught that God's Kingdom is the kingdom to come. It is not to be confused with this world, this material universe with its human society. This is why the Church's task is to save souls and not to engage in socio-political activities which corrupt the spiritual aims of the Church.

Today, many of our churchmen have gone all out to become members of civil and political movements. They have turned away from what they perceived to be the rigid rationalism and cold abstractions of traditional Roman scholasticism. As a consequence, they have reduced their ecclesial character to crass materialism, virtually transforming Catholicism into a mere pawn of economics. In short, what they have done is to totally recast our human structure—cultural, political, social, intellectual, familial and personal.

For example, Bishop Ted Bacani utilizes his Episcopal office on mundane affairs such as interfering in the political process of Caloocan City, pontificating a "failure of election" and promoting tension between Malonzo and the Asistios. Fr. Robert Reyes identifies his elusive dream of being a trackstar with the aspirations of people seeking redress from our courts of law.

Christ established the Church to change the world. With the paradigm shift demonstrated by clergymen like Bacani and Reyes, I'm afraid that the reverse has happened: the world has changed the Church.—**ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st eBank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Academic credentials for candidates

THE THESIS of columnist Isagani A. Cruz, "Noli de Castro Sa Pagka-Pangulo," (PDI, 6/10/01) is very instructive and timely with the charter change movement again looming large in the political horizon.

Indeed, the root of all evils in our political system is the meager educational qualifications of our elected officials. So, to prevent another catastrophe like the landslide victory of Joseph Estrada in the 1998 national elections, we should amend the Constitution to require academic qualifications for all elective positions just like appointive officials in our government.

I suggest the following level of educational qualifications: a bachelor's degree for elective national and provincial positions, and two years of college for municipal and barangay officials.

We appeal to our lawmakers to amend our Constitution to prevent incompetent candidates from running for any elective positions.—**LEONARDO R. ASIS, Angadanan, Isabela**

Open skies for Cebu

WE are happy that Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has taken steps to creatively market the Philippines by showing the world that negative incidents like the Abu Sayyaf abductions and kidnappings happen only in isolated areas of the country and that the rest of the archipelago still has viable tourist havens.

To complement this effort, the Department of Transportation and Communications should immediately facilitate international access to airports other than the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

Take Cebu, for instance. Last year, the Cebu Provincial Board unanimously passed Resolution 884-2000 urging then Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera to make the necessary representations with concerned government and private entities for the opening of more international flights to and from the Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA). But it seems that nothing was done about it there. We wonder if Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez is pushing for it now. It seems like a logical move.

Mactan serves only around 8 percent of total flights into the country while 90 percent goes through the NAIA. So even if Gordon were able to sell the idea that Cebu is a safe tourist destination, international flights would still have to go through Manila which has a generally bad reputation as far as travel advisories are concerned.

Mactan is terribly underutilized because only 2.5 million passengers go through it yearly although it has a capacity of at least a million annually.

Why not adopt an "open skies" policy for Cebu only? In Indonesia, the violence in East Timor and Jakarta did not stop its tourism from growing. The government simply declared open skies for Bali, their top tourist spot. So despite its peace and order, security and political problems, Indonesia still gets some four million tourists a year. That's double our tourist inflow.

Perhaps Gordon and Alvarez should put their heads together on this one.—**ISIDRO S. JAVIER, Summitville, Muntinlupa City**

Myanmar's generals seek power with legitimacy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dominic Whiting

BANGKOK—Myanmar's military rulers are offering concessions to the pro-democracy opposition in a bid to improve their global image but analysts say they have no real intention of relaxing their iron grip on power.

They say the government's aim is to create a regime which allows the military to maintain a central role but gives the ruling generals more legitimacy in the eyes of the outside world.

The international community welcomed secret talks between the government and pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, which began in October, and became concerned earlier this year over reports the dialogue had stalled.

But analysts said a recent visit to the country by UN special envoy Razali Ismail, who played a key role in brokering the talks, was a positive sign.

The recent release of 13 political prisoners and the reopening of 20 opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) offices in Yangon also suggested a thaw, analysts said.

"Razali clearly communicated that the international community was losing patience and that more evidence was needed to show that this is going to be a sustained process," a Western diplomat in Bangkok told Reuters.

"The talks had been going on for several months and they were greeted with great optimism, but then people started wondering if anything was happening and whether it was all just hot air."

Razali left Myanmar hopeful of civilian rule in four years.

But the NLD is frustrated that dozens of its members are still in government "guest houses"—a euphemism for a loose form of detention. Aung San Suu Kyi is also under house arrest.

The human rights group Amnesty International says about 1,850 political prisoners remain behind bars.

Myanmar-watchers say any deal would involve reconvening a constitution drafting body, guaranteeing a military role in politics, giving the generals amnesty for any past rights abuses, and not allowing Aung San Suu Kyi to take political office.

But political analysts say without substantial concessions on power-sharing or other steps to solve the country's chronic political problems, the opposition is unlikely to strike a deal.

The NLD won Myanmar's last elections, in 1990, with a landslide victory the military did not expect or accept.

Analysts say the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) will not make the same mistake again, and will make sure the NLD is in no position to win another election.

"The recent developments are positive, but I don't see much real progress on domestic politics," said Chaiyachoke Chulasiriwongs, a lecturer at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"The SPDC is weakening the NLD, threatening those who are not already in jail, while preparing its own political foundations."

A recent speech by SPDC chair Than Shwe calling on war veterans to be more politically active indicated the military could be preparing a vehicle to fight elections.

"The SPDC's more pragmatic faction is trying to create a kind of puppet political movement," said Sunai Pasuk, a researcher at Forum Asia, a Bangkok-based human rights organization.

"It's clever to integrate war veterans, which would underline the presence of the military in politics, and involve the youth movement—led by children of regime members," he said.

"Political dialogue gives the regime a face-lift but the SPDC will manage every aspect of the dialogue to give an outcome in its favor. They won't want to repeat their 1990 mistake."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, highly respected by Myanmar's generals, has also hinted at some kind of accommodation to keep the military in power.

Earlier this year Mahathir said any future elections in Myanmar would not "undermine authority" and suggested the country could adopt other southeast Asian political models, rather than Western-style parliamentary democracy.

But the pace and direction of change will depend largely on the internal power struggles within the ruling regime.

Rivalry between military intelligence chief Khin Nyunt and the SPDC's second ranked general, Maung Aye, to replace Than Shwe at the top has been simmering for years, analysts say.

Khin Nyunt seems to have the upper hand since a helicopter crash killed one of Maung Aye's powerful allies in February, and observers say he has recently succeeded in placing supporters in key regional military posts.

Khin Nyunt is seen as more favorable to some kind of political change, and analysts say he backs the talks with Suu Kyi while Maung Aye wants a hard-line approach to continue.

"Khin Nyunt is more inclined to take the international community more seriously," the diplomatic source said.

Forum Asia's Sunai said Khin Nyunt would try to emulate Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who won national polls in 1998 that were endorsed by the international community despite some intimidation of the opposition and voters in the run-up to the vote by ruling party officials and supporters.

"Khin Nyunt will have a two-pronged strategy—keep the SPDC in power and achieve world legitimacy—what I call...dictatorship with a new face," he said.

REUTERS

No campaign contributions to declare

I WAS surprised to read in the newspapers that I am one of those senatorial candidates "who failed to file statements of contributions and expenditures for the May 14 elections."

The Comelec is well aware that I withdrew from the race on May 18, way before the balloting and counting were concluded, for I honestly felt that May 14 was a charade, a sham and a grand thievery and larceny which destroyed the sanctity of the ballots.

The Comelec should have declared the May 14 elections a total failure and nullified the results altogether. It should have done this not only because of the violence and the incompetence, but also because of massive cheating and corruption.

Before I account for what I spent, I demand that the Comelec account for all the votes stolen from me.

I received no contribution. I did not enrich myself by running unlike others.

I did not receive any notice asking me to file my statement of contributions and expenditures, as the Comelec always did in the past. This goes to show that the Comelec had accepted my withdrawal.

Moreover, I am taking care of my sick 91-year-old mother and younger sister up to now. Every single day since the beginning of April has left me no time for anything else—much less to think of our stupid "elections" which I am trying so hard to forget—forever.

Consider this my official declaration of "contributions and expenditures for the May 14 elections."—**MANUEL MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

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AIDS-ravaged Africa pleads for help

UNITED NATIONS—One after another, African leaders at the UN.s first global gathering on HIV/AIDS made emotional pleas for help in ending the devastation wrought by the epidemic, with Nigeria's president warning that entire populations face extinction.

Secretary General Kofi Annan opened the three-day Special Session on Monday by urging world leaders to set aside moral judgments and face the unpleasant facts of a disease that has killed 22 million people and ravaged many of the world's poorest nations.

Kenya and Nigeria are each home to more than 2 million HIV patients. In Botswana, more than 20 percent of adults are infected, and in South Africa, AIDS will knock off 17 years of life expectancy by 2005.

"The future of our continent is bleak, to say the least," Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said. "The prospect of extinction of the entire population of a continent looms larger and larger."

Obasanjo and others called for "total cancellation of Africa's debt."

"The undeniable fact is that, with the fragility of our economies, we simply lack the capacity to adequately respond to the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

The secretary general, a native of Ghana who has made the fight against AIDS his priority, said AIDS spending "in the developing world needs to rise to roughly five times its present level."

Annan has called for a global AIDS fund and says at least $7 billion is needed.

"Our response to AIDS must be no less comprehensive, no less relentless, no less swift than the pandemic itself," US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the General Assembly on Monday. Powell said more money would come from the United States—which has already pledged $200 million in seed money—"as we learn where our support will be most effective."

Several speakers, including Powell, acknowledged that the global response to AIDS has been woefully late. Britain's Clare Short, secretary for international development, went a step further by criticizing the very gathering she addressed.

"It is my strongly held view that we waste too much time and energy in UN conferences and special sessions. We use up enormous energy in arguing at great length over texts that provide few if any follow-up mechanisms or assurances that governments and UN agencies will carry forward the declarations that are agreed," she said.

Indeed, the morning session ended in more than two-hours of arguments over whether to exclude the US-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission from the conference. Eleven unidentified countries wanted it kept out but Canada led a successful vote to keep the group accredited.

Elsewhere in the building, diplomats squabbled over a final conference document mapping a global strategy against the disease. Muslim countries and the United States object to language that specifies vulnerable groups, including men who have sex with men.

Negotiators said Islamic countries were considering their response to the outcome of talks, which formally wrapped up Monday. *AP*

600,000 Chinese have AIDS virus, number rising fast

UNITED NATIONS—More than 600,000 people in China are estimated to be infected with the AIDS virus and the number is increasing by 30 percent annually, primarily because of an upsurge in infections among intravenous drug users, China's health minister said.

Although the prevalence of the HIV virus and AIDS is still low—just 0.5 percent of China's 1.27 billion population—the government has launched a five-year plan to reduce the increase from 30 percent to 10 percent annually, Zhang Wenkang said Monday.

The plan calls for including AIDS awareness in the sex education curriculum for 15-year-olds, prevention messages from leading actors, condom vending machines and education programs at all leadership levels. Improved treatment—including the possibility of cheap drugs—is also part of the plan, Zhang said in an interview after addressing the first UN.General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

Five years ago, about 40 percent of China's HIV cases were the result of the illegal selling of blood, primarily in rural areas where dirty needles were often used, he said. Following a government crackdown on illegal blood-buying, the percentage of HIV cases from tainted blood has dropped to 4 to 6 percent.

About 70 percent of current HIV cases are the result of intravenous drug use, Zhang said. Another 10 percent are infected through heterosexual or homosexual relations and a smaller percentage from mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

Professor Shao Yiming, deputy director of China's National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control, explained that the numbers are just estimates. As a developing country China can only do limited AIDS testing and people in rural areas often don't recognize the HIV virus, he said.

Zhang said the estimate of more than 600,000 HIV sufferers was made by epidemiologists based on the actual number of reported HIV cases—23,905 at the end of March. At that time, there were also 956 AIDS patients and 537 confirmed deaths, he said.

UN figures on AIDS in China indicate some 500,000 adults were living with HIV or AIDS in 1999 and that 17,000 died from AIDS during that year.

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS has said that "while East Asia and the Pacific region still appear to be holding HIV at bay, the recent steep rise in sexually transmitted infections in China and the vast transmigration of people—spurred by economic growth—could unleash an epidemic."

Outlining China's five-year plan to cut new HIV infections, Zhang said people will be urged to take preventative measures against the disease, ". . . for instance to develop a healthy lifestyle, without so many sex partners, and secondly without drug using. We advocate marital sex. We discourage extramarital sex." *AP*

Report: Taiwan secretly making cruise missile

TAIPEI—Taiwan is secretly developing a cruise missile, which could be used to strike most of rival China's military establishments, a report said yesterday.

In tests the missile has demonstrated a range of hundreds of kilometers, and the researchers hope to work out a weaponry with a range up to 1,000 km, the United Daily News said.

The paper said last week that authorities were also developing a surface-to-surface missile with a range of up to 2,000 km. The military-run Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology denied the report.

The Chinese-language daily said the cruise missile, developed under the "Hsiungfeng II E project," was virtually a copy of the Tomahawk missile which has served the US armed forces.

The 6.25 meter long Tomahawk has a range of up to 1,249 km.

Should a war break out, the missile could be used to attack China's missile bases, military commands, ammunition depots, naval bases and power plants in the Shenyang, Beijing, Jinan, Nanjin and Guangdong military districts, the paper said.

It said the two weaponry development projects mark a deviation of Taiwan's military strategy, which has focused its efforts on defense against China rather than on offense.

Beijing has accused Taipei of acquiring more offensive weapons, notably from the United States, a move which China said was aimed at bringing war to the mainland.

But Taipei insisted the continued arms build-up was critical in fending off China's perceived military threat.

Among others, China has at least 300 ballistic missiles stationed along its southeast coast and targeted on Taiwan. The island's defense ministry expects the number to reach 800 by 2006.

The George W. Bush administration in April approved the most comprehensive arms package to Taiwan since 1992, including eight diesel-engined submarines, 12 P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft, and four Kidd class frigates.

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party has refused to embrace Beijing's "One-China" norm saying it was merely a topic to be discussed.

China considers Taiwan part of its territory which must be brought back under its rule, even though the island has been ruled separately since the end of the 1949 civil war. *AFP*

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Montesinos in Peru to face charges

MONTESINOS

LIMA, Peru—Vladimiro Lenin Montesinos, Peru's feared intelligence chief who built an empire from graft, returned home Monday to face human rights and corruption charges after his capture in Venezuela with the help of the FBI.

Montesinos emerged from a police airplane after his flight from Caracas, where he was captured Saturday after an eight-month manhunt, and police escorted him to a waiting helicopter. A garment was draped over his clasped wrists, apparently to hide his handcuffs.

Later, he smiled as he was escorted by police into Lima's Justice Palace. Clean-shaven, his hawkish features were unchanged, putting to rest reports he had undergone plastic surgery to elude capture. He was taken for questioning by six special anti-corruption judges.

In New York, Peru President-elect Alejandro Toledo, seeking economic aid and touting Peru's restored democracy to potential investors, called Montesinos' arrest "a step forward in the sense of Peru's moral recovery."

Both US and Peruvian officials said the United States played an important role in his capture.

US State Department Spokesperson Eliza Koch said "the FBI developed key information in Miami regarding Montesinos' whereabouts, provided it to the government in Peru, which in turn facilitated his detention by Venezuelan authorities."

A US Embassy official in Lima, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a former Venezuelan intelligence officer tipped the FBI to Montesinos' location after the man was caught attempting "to extort" the release of funds from a bank in Miami on Montesinos' behalf. The Peruvian ex-spy chief had allegedly stashed some $38 million in illicit profits in an account and wanted to get the money.

"This information was decisive in locating Vladimiro Montesinos," Peru's Prime Minister Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters.

Authorities now face the question of where to detain the man who investigators say dominated the government for nearly a decade with a network of cronies and hid away millions of dollars earned in drug trafficking and arms deals. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Forget differences—Pope

LVIV, Ukraine—Pope John Paul II urged Ukrainians and Poles to forget historical differences and "build together a future of mutual respect," at an open-air Mass celebrated near the border between the two countries. "It is time to leave behind the sorrowful past. The Christians of Poland and Ukraine must walk together in the name of the one Christ, guided by the principle of unity," the Polish-born Pope said on the penultimate day of a controversial visit to Ukraine. "May pardon given and received spread like a healing balm in every heart. May the purification of historical memories lead everyone to work for the triumph of what unites over what divides, in order to build together a future of mutual respect," the Pope continued. before adding: "Be united!" Up to 500,000 worshippers gathered yesterday a racecourse in Lviv. western Ukraine, only 70 km from the Polish border, to witness the 81-year-old Pope celebrate a Latin Mass. *AFP*

Wahid's former masseur

JAKARTA—Indonesian prosecutors yesterday asked a court to sentence President Abdurrahman Wahid's former masseur to three years in jail over a financial scandal in which the embattled leader has also been implicated. Chief prosecutor Nulis Sembiring told North Jakarta district court it had been proved the defendant, businessman Alip Agung Suwondo, had embezzled $3.9 million. The money, which Suwondo managed to claim on a letter issued by a fellow defendant, belonged to the Yanatera foundation, an employees' fund of the state logistics agency Bulog, Sembiring said. The case, known as "Bulogate," is one of a pair of financial scandals which formed part of the basis of two recent parliamentary censures against Wahid. Following the censures, the president faces possible impeachment by a special session of the upper house of parliament, the MPR, on Aug. 1. Wahid has admitted he discussed the possibility of using the Bulog funds with the other defendant in the case, the former deputy chief of the logistics agency, Sapuan. *AFP*

Milosevic transfer

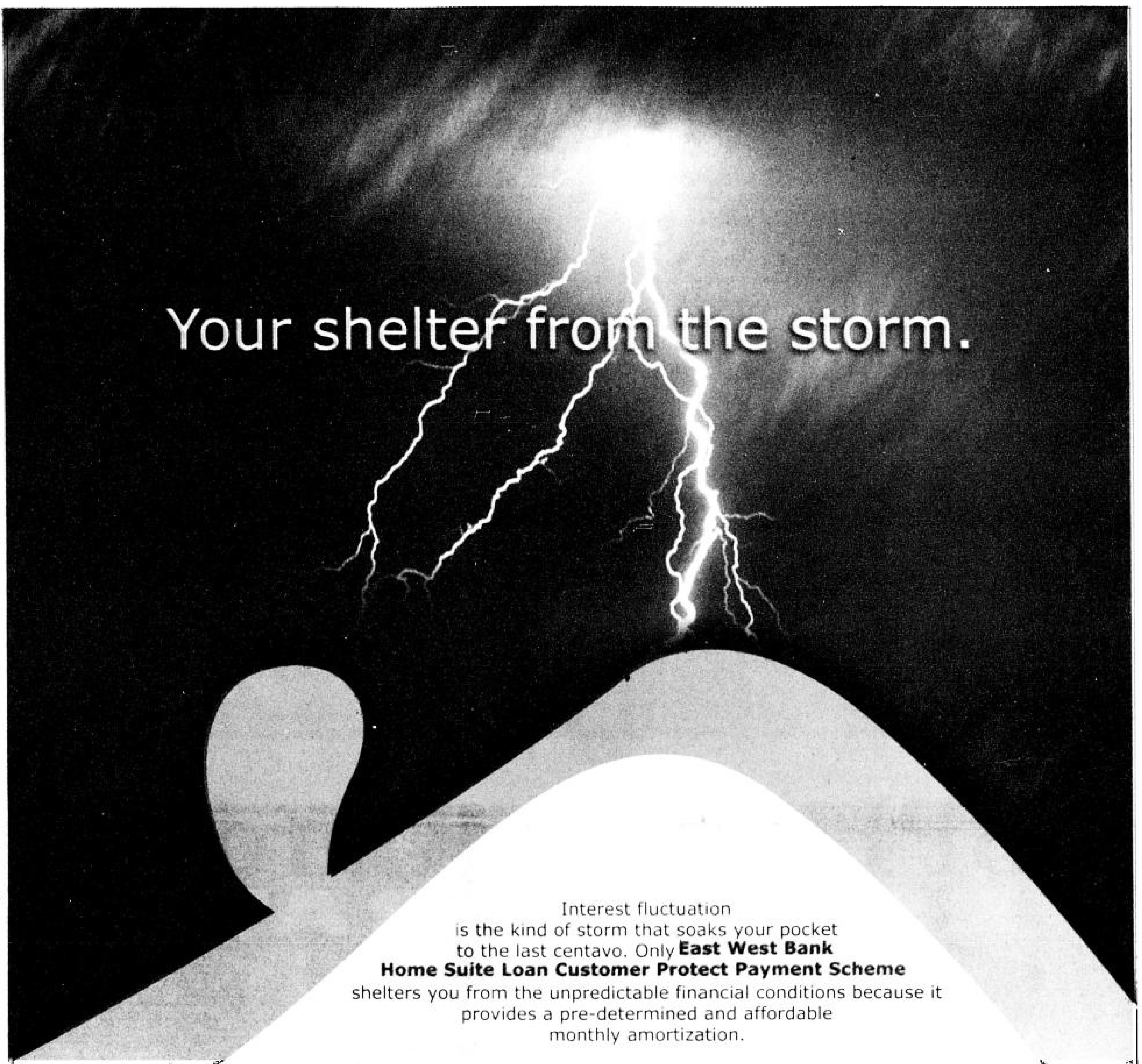
BELGRADE—The Yugoslav government has taken the first legal steps required to transfer former president Slobodan Milosevic to the UN tribunal in The Hague, the Serbian government announced Monday. Yugoslav Justice Minister Momcilo Grubac has submitted an official request to the Belgrade regional court for the transfer of the former leader, the Serbian government said in a statement carried by the Tanjug news agency. Milosevic is wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for war crimes allegedly committed during the 1998-1999 crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The former president has been in jail since April 1 on accusations of corruption and abuse of power. *AFP*

Sharon sets conditions

NEW YORK—Hoping for US support in stabilizing a ceasefire with the Palestinians, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon prefaced a meeting with President George W. Bush by setting tough conditions for resuming peace talks. Sharon met Bush yesterday at the White House, his second visit in three months. The meeting reflects stepped-up US involvement in the Mideast conflict, after an initial period when the Bush administration tried to limit the US role. Speaking in New York on Monday, Sharon demanded a "total cessation of violence" by the Palestinians before progressing with a US-backed plan for restarting peace negotiations. During a Monday reception in New York for Jewish leaders, he said he would tell Bush "We cannot change it, and you have to know we will not change" the demand for an end to all violence. US Secretary of State Colin Powell has talked of seeking a "100-percent effort" from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to stop nine months of violence, but Sharon said he would not become involved in a debate over how much violence is acceptable. *AP*

Quake toll rises to 97

LIMA—Rescuers sifting through the rubble following Peru's latest devastating earthquake found more bodies on Monday, raising the death toll to 97, according to the National Civil Defense Institute. The powerful earthquake rocked the southern Andean region Saturday but hit the Peruvian town of Arequipa the hardest, injuring more than a thousand people and damaging or destroying more than 40,000 homes, the institute said. Some 1,169 people are injured and 53 people are missing, according to amended figures initially placed at 66. *AFP*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Special pupils of S. Mindanao have no textbooks

By Joel Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Even special education (Sped) classes are not exempt from lack of textbooks, which are plaguing most public schools in Southern Mindanao.

Three weeks after the start of classes, Sped pupils are yet to be issued textbooks and are not likely to get one in the days to come.

Florita Masing, principal of the Davao City Special School said because of this situation, they had to change their teaching method from participative one to "mere spoon-feeding."

"The teachers resorted back to feeding them information, which is the old way of teaching. We don't do that anymore but this time we have no choice," Masing said.

The participative system of instruction largely depends on textbooks and skills workbooks. The teacher, under this system, serves as facilitator and the students are left on their own to study.

A similar situation also happened in 1999 when the Department of Education, Culture and Sports stopped issuing textbooks to Sped. However, parents became wary of the kind of education their children might get and volunteered to buy textbooks.

But Masing said DECS Order No. 23, which was issued by Secretary Raul Roco, halted that effort.

The order mandated public schools to stop accepting contributions aside from those required by law—and that includes requiring or requesting parents from buying textbooks for their children.

"I might be charged administratively if I accepted the textbooks bought by the parents this year," Masing said.

Dr. Minda Rodriguez, Sped treasurer said parents had already bought 16 textbooks at P130 each for each subject but they had to give it back.

Dionisio Abitong, assistant superintendent for elementary division said that it has been a tradition among parents of Sped pupils to buy their children's textbooks because they know the government could not provide all the requirement for a quality education.

"Last year, (pupils) were allowed to buy their own books but because of the memorandum, we still had to ask the permission of the Education Secretary before that could be allowed," he said.

Masing also made another startling revelation brought by the lack of textbook.

She said the situation also greatly affected the school's acceleration program.

Normally, a month after the start of classes Sped children would have been through with one unit of their skills workbook.

159 Iloilo inmates stage riot over gambling debts

By Nestor Burgos Jr. and Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A four-year-old boy walked free yesterday morning after being trapped for 16 hours inside the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center (IRC) where 159 prisoners staged a riot about 6 p.m. Monday.

Mark Somcio, son of inmate Marlon Somcio, was released about 10 a.m. after politicians, policemen and prison officials donated P6,300 in exchange for the boy's freedom.

The boy, who was unhurt but visibly shaken, was turned over by his grandfather, Alberto Horvidalla, also a prisoner, to Iloilo Vice Gov. Demy Sonza.

The vice governor then gave the P6,300 to Joel Prion, the mayores (cell leader) of the group of inmates that started the riot, to pay part of the P20,000, which five inmates, including the boy's father, Marlon, owed their cellmates during gambling.

Supt. Efren Quintos, acting IRC warden, said the inmates, who staged the riot, were reportedly angered by the transfer of these five indebted inmates from the Annex Building to the Main Building.

Rachel Espesor of the Department of Social Work and Development asked the boy's mother and relatives to monitor any unusual behavior because Mark might have been traumatized.

The riot occurred at the IRC annex building, which houses 476 inmates, eight of whom are women, in 18 detention cells. The IRC was built in 1911 to accommodate only 150 inmates.

Quintos said only the inmates under Prion, who is facing multiple charges, including murder and robbery, joined the riot. The rest watched the action from the safety of their cells.

The riot broke out about 6 p.m. Monday after jail guard Nicolas Ebalan intervened when inmates started mauling Marlon who failed to pay off his losses, amounting to P160, from *cara y cruz*.

A WATCHMAN and police squad guard the back of the prison annex where 159 inmates staged a riot Monday evening. ARNOLD ALMACEN OF THE VISAYAS EXAMINER

When Marlon gave P130, inmate Jerry Suficiencia reportedly grabbed a 2x2 club and beat Marlon and prisoner Elger Saclauso.

Seeing the commotion, Ebalan snatched Marlon and Saclauso, both detained for murder charges, from the building. Ebalan's gesture had angered the inmates led by Prion.

Hostage

A riot immediately broke out. The inmates of the IRC annex building then held hostage Mark who was inside his father's cell.

The boy had been with his father since Saturday when his mother left him behind after Marlon asked to be with his son.

Quintos explained that the jail's policy allows the wife and one or two children to sleep with the prisoner during weekends. But, he stressed, they have to leave by Monday morning.

Leonardo Tabaldo, provincial administrator, said 10 visiting cards are issued to wives who wish to have conjugal visits during weekends.

He, however, admitted Mark was not a card-carrying visitor, the reason why the boy's presence was not noticed.

Scores of policemen from the Iloilo Provincial Police Office and the Iloilo City Police Office immediately arrived to secure the jail premises and stood guard overnight to prevent jailbreaks.

The inmates then burned their blankets, old newspapers and threw broken bottles to keep the jail guards at bay.

At the height of the pandemonium inside the annex prison cells, firefighters and policemen came to hose the cell and calm down inmates, who remained defiant of any attempts to negotiate for the release of the child.

Mark, however, was sound asleep the night before, unaware that his mother, scores of reporters, jailguards and policemen in riot gear have not slept at all.

He was also seen playing calmly inside the cell when negotiations for his release were ongoing yesterday morning.

Demands

The inmates raised three issues during the negotiations. These were the lifting of strip-search of women visitors in the jail, a stop to the wearing of the compulsory tangerine prisoners' uniform during court hearings, and better food rations.

Sonza said he would bring up the demands to the provincial government but defended the strip-search as a security policy.

Women's groups and journalists had condemned the strip-search policy when a reporter filed a complaint after being subjected to strip search in February.

Quintos said the inmates are required to wear prison uniforms when attending court hearings on orders of the Executive Judge of the Iloilo Regional Trial Court. The uniform makes for easy identification when they are in the courtroom.

Tabaldo said the inmates each have a daily food budget of P30, which is enough for their needs. The prisoners are served fish from Mondays to Fridays, and meat on weekends.

Sonza and Tabaldo said there appeared to be no compelling reason for the inmates to stage a riot Monday night because the gambling incident was a matter the inmates settled among themselves.

Gambling

Jail officers said gambling proliferates inside the prison cells to kill the inmates' boredom. Prisoners would bet on almost anything from basketball games to spider fights.

Inmates would often run into debts because they bet even when they are broke. Their families are often burdened with paying the loans.

But they also have their own form of penalty for inmates who failed to settle their debts.

Quintos said the prisoners were actually practicing "takal," a form of punishment among prisoners for unpaid debts or violation of rules imposed by their prison *mayores* (cell leaders).

An offender is beaten on the buttocks with a wooden paddle similar to the ones used in fraternity initiation rites. One hit of the paddle is equivalent to every peso, which the offender owes.

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Mikey says sorry for misdeed

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Visayas. SOURCE: **PAGASA**

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By TONETTE OREJAS
AND JUN MALIG
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Although he has yet to assume office on June 30, Pampanga Vice Gov.-elect Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is already misbehaving, a provincial official said.

In a three-page handwritten statement Sunday, provincial administrator Benalfre Galang said the young Arroyo "berated" him over the phone last Friday and called him "*langaw ka lang* (you're only a fly)."

But an apologetic Arroyo showed up Monday at Galang's office, not anymore the "angry, stubborn and arrogant man" that he was last Friday.

Followed by some 50 security personnel, supporters and reporters, the young Arroyo walked into Galang's office at 9 a.m.

Galang, 42, said he received the harsh rebuke after he commented on Arroyo's proposal to create a provincial economic development council.

"In my 15 years in government, I have never been humiliated in (the) brashest manner. And to think that he (Mikey Arroyo) has not yet assumed his post," Galang said.

Galang has served as provincial attorney since 1995 and was appointed provincial administrator months before the May 14 elections.

"If I hurt you, I'm sorry," Arroyo, 34, said in Filipino.

The apology came three days after the 42-year-old Galang, in a handwritten press statement, condemned how Arroyo "berated" him during a phone conversation on Friday.

Galang said he felt flattered by Arroyo's gesture.

"He (Arroyo) came here and extended his apology to me. He showed that he has humility. It takes a lot of courage to do that. I also apologized to him if I offended him," he said.

According to Galang, the young Arroyo took offense for being told that his proposal to create a provincial economic development council was unnecessary since Lapid had organized a similar body in 1998.

He said that advising Arroyo was within the bounds of his duties as provincial administrator.

"Mikey might not be aware of the EO (executive order creating the council), having been newly elected. I was only doing what I thought was right, advise him," Galang said.

He said "no amount of threat could dissuade me from performing my official functions."

But appreciating the humility of the President's son, Galang stood up, slightly arched his back and shook hands with Arroyo.

The two did not resume their argument over the creation of the council or argued about what each one exactly said during Friday's phone conversation that Arroyo started.

Arroyo on Sunday told the INQUIRER he talked that way with Galang because he considered him his friend.

"That's how friends talked, *di ba*? Open and without pretensions," he said.

Told that he is now a public official and that Galang also held a public office and that their argument was over a public issue, the young Arroyo admitted he acted in an unseemly manner.

At the lobby leading to the office of the provincial administrator, capitol employees lingered, waiting for the outcome of Arroyo's reconciliation effort.

Some clapped and cheered when Arroyo emerged smiling from Galang's office.

But Arroyo's turnabout was all for a show, a source from the Lakas-NUCD said.

The source said the President did not like the way her son behaved last Friday. The President, according to the same source, also reminded her son to be an example of a good leader.

Arroyo's press relations officers had tried to keep the incident under wraps.

On Sunday, they called up several Pampanga reporters to ask if they could "tone down" their reporting of Arroyo's misbehavior.

Some called up the editors of Metro Manila-based dailies. On Monday, only one national newspaper reported the incident.

Arroyo, according to Galang, "must protect his image and the President's." "Whatever he does will be a reflection of his mother, him being the President's son," Galang said.

3 nabbed for Ecija businessman murder

CABANATUAN CITY—Three men were arrested by the police after they were positively identified as suspects in the June 18 killing of a young businessman from San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

The suspects were identified as Jayson Viray, Raymundo Ardonia, and Julius Oscar Soriano, all 21 and residents of Barangay Zamora in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija.

Police arrested them on Sunday afternoon when they returned to Nueva Ecija from Manila where they reportedly stayed after the killing of jewelry trader Ace Glenn Casares on June 18.

Soriano is said to be a son of a policeman assigned in Nueva Ecija.

The body of Casares, 21, was found stuffed in the trunk of his Ford Lynx that was abandoned along the highway in San Rafael, Bulacan. He succumbed to 19 stab wounds.

Recovered from the suspects were some belongings of Casares that included pieces of jewelry, a cellular phone and the handbag of his mother Gloviminda, an internal auditor of the Government Service Insurance System here.

Police also recovered receipts from some pawnshops in Manila where Casares' pieces of jewelry were pawned.

Based on police investigations, the victim met the suspects at a gasoline station here. Police said the meeting turned ugly, prompting one of the suspects to stab Casares. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Dengue alert up in Dagupan, Cagayan

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Health officials here raised the dengue alert in the province following the death of a 12-year-old boy and the affliction of 24 others with dengue fever.

Dr. Alfredo Sy, acting Pangasinan health officer, also warned that cases of dengue fever affliction could increase this year because of the early rains and the long rainy season.

He identified the lone dengue fatality in the province this year as Keitz Sirvinias. He said most of those who were afflicted with the mosquito-borne disease are children.

He said Gov. Victor Agbayani has ordered officials of government hospitals in Pangasinan to treat patients suffering from dengue fever free of charge.

In 1998, 47 dengue patients died and 2,123 others were afflicted with the fever. The cases dropped in 1999 with 447 cases and 10 dead.

Last year, Pangasinan recorded zero fatality but 250 patients were afflicted with the disease.

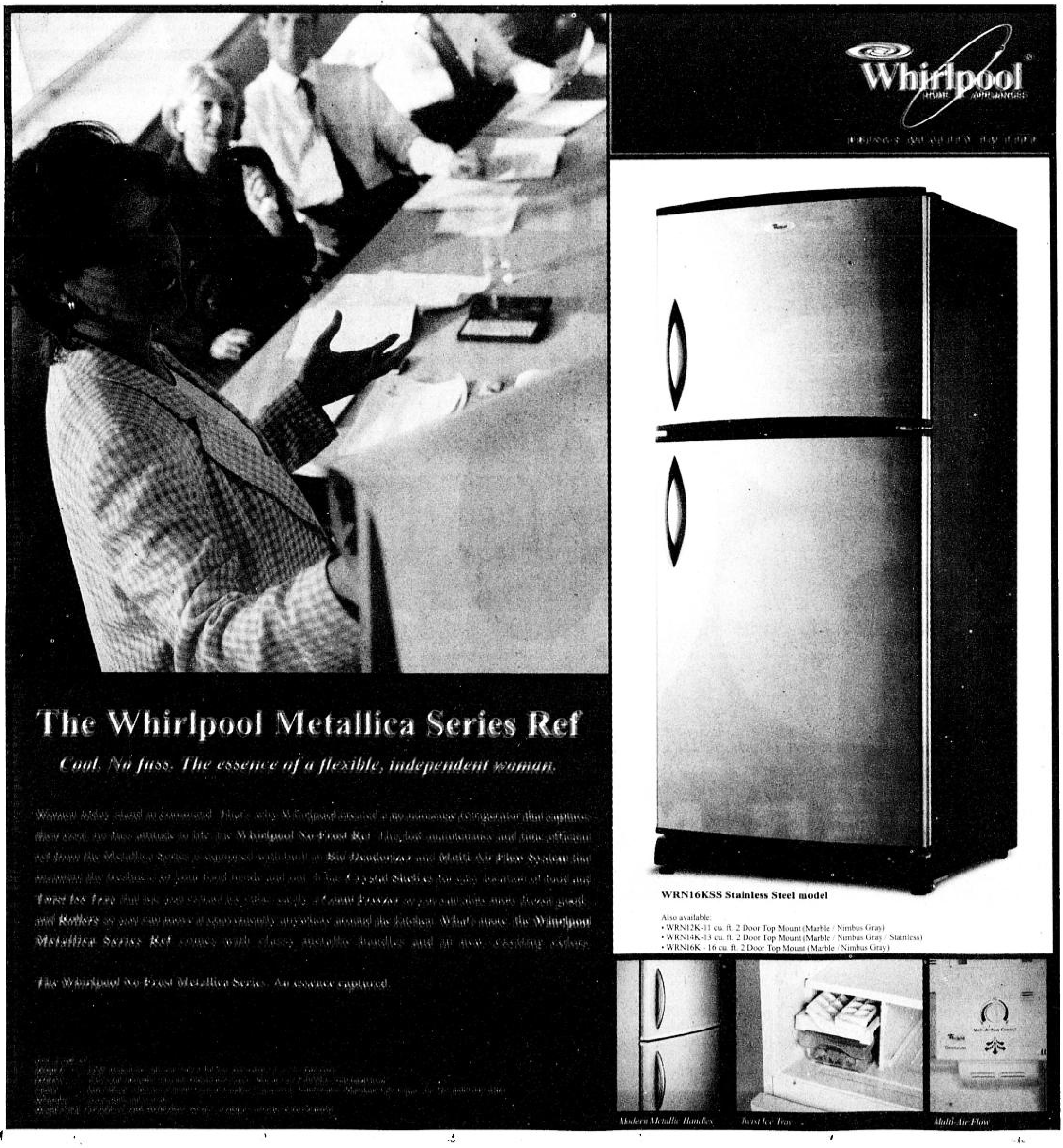
Sy said the rampant cases in 1998 could have been the effects of the El Niño and La Niña weather phenomena when the abnormal weather conditions affected the growth of dengue-carrying mosquitoes and made them smaller.

"Because they were small, they were always biting, thus spreading the virus faster," he said.

Sy said his agency has been conducting larval survey in Pangasinan's 44 towns and four cities to identify the areas where *Aedes egypti* and *Aedes albopectus*, the mosquito species carrying the dengue virus, thrive.

"These areas will be our priority for defogging activities," he said.

In Tuguegarao City, health officials in Cagayan Valley also warned residents about the dangers of dengue fever after the regional Department of Health recorded 184 cases of dengue fever affliction. *Yolanda Fuertes with a report from Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Rebels' kin claim 3 bodies

TAGBILARAN CITY—Relatives have claimed the bodies of three of the six suspected rebels killed in an encounter on June 23 in Purok 7, Barangay Burgoz, Talibon town, some 104 kilometers north of this city.

They were Eugenia Milloria, 22, a native of Barangay Baguhan, Inabanga town; Berto Torreon, 18, a native of Mahanay Dako, Talibon; and Toribio Abas, 26, of Barangay Carlos Garcia, Getafe town.

Supt. Lani-o Nerez, Bohol provincial director, said Torreon was claimed by his mother and Abas, by his wife. A relative also identified and claimed the body of Milloria, he added.

The other fatalities—a woman and two men—remained unidentified and were still in a funeral parlor in Talibon.

Sources told the INQUIRER that the unidentified woman was from Sevilla town. One of the two men was from Trinidad town, Bohol and the other from Surigao.

The six were killed about 5:30 p.m. Saturday when a joint team from the Army's Special Forces Company and the police in Talibon raided three houses in Barangay Burgoz where about 10 rebels had spent the night.

Barangay Burgoz is an inland village along the boundary of Talibon and Getafe towns and has long been suspected of being a rebel refuge.

The joint team was composed of about 20 soldiers and policemen led by Capt. Apollo Lamaton, commander of the Army's 3rd Special Forces Company.

Gertrudes Torreon, Berto's mother, told the INQUIRER that she had no idea that her son had joined the underground movement.

"He asked permission to go to Cebu because he wanted to work. But he said he would pass by Inabanga (town) because he had a companion to see," she said in Cebuano.

She described her son as the type who rarely talked about his job when he visited their home. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Witch hunt

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A mother of 10 was beaten and mobbed here recently and her house was stoned by her neighbors because she was mistaken for an *aswang*. But a neighbor who took pity on Lolita Aparri explained that she was usually seen standing on the dark side of a wooden bridge near their house until the wee hours of the morning because she was waiting for her children to come home. Aparri's children, he said, would go out at night but go home in the early morning. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Enough rice

NAGA CITY—The country will have more than enough rice until next year, the Department of Agriculture here assured. Fe Laysa, DA regional executive director, said the DA's rice stock at the end of November last year reached 2.4 million cavans equivalent to 77-day consumption at 943,170 cavans per month. Laysa said the recent typhoons that hit the country wrought minimal damage on the farmers' crops. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Drug pushers charged

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police have recovered 54 grams of shabu and 102 grams of marijuana leaves in 38 buy-bust operations in Central Luzon from June 16 to 24. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Central Luzon police director, said they arrested 63 suspected drug pushers who have been charged with violations of the Dangerous Drugs Law. The confiscated illegal drugs have a combined value of P120,000, Galang said. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Collectors nabbed

CALAPAN CITY—Chief Insp. Policarpio Lopez, Oriental Mindoro police information officer, said police have conducted "an all-out war against the operators" of illegal numbers game, which are proliferating again in the province. From June 4-10, police arrested 47 jueteng collectors, confiscated 8 motorcycles and retrieved P6,356 from the suspects. Concerned Oriental Mindoro residents, however, were not convinced that the authorities were doing their jobs properly as they expected the gambling lords to be arrested. ***Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

S. MINDANAO LEADERS WORRIED

Budget shortage threatens food program

BY AYAN MELLEJOR
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—With the national government suffering from budgetary constraints, local government leaders in Southern Mindanao are worried whether the P4.9 billion food security program under the Davao Integrated Development Project (DIDP) will remain a priority concern of the Arroyo administration.

DIDP executive director, Councilor Wendel Avisado raised this concern after the Macapagal administration failed to release fresh funds this year to pursue the DIDP's integrated food security program.

The latest fund received by the program was the P200 million released last year by former president Joseph Estrada.

The P4.9 billion fund for the project is spread in five years.

This covers the rehabilitation and construction of farm-to-market roads, small irrigation development, establishment of upland-farming model villages, developing rural industries and village enterprises and fishery sector development.

Avisado said if the Macapagal administration fails to release fresh funds, the DIDP will have to rely on the local government units, mandated to set aside counterpart funds to the project.

The DIDP is a recipient of grants from Japan, which is now experiencing an economic crisis.

"Japan is also in the brink of (a) recession," Avisado told reporters during the Kapihan sa Dabaw forum at Maguindanao Hotel.

DIDP's food security program aims to reinforce its member-LGUs' competitive advantage in fruits, industrial crops and cutflowers and pursue opportunities in improving productivity in existing and potential areas.

Of the earmarked budget, Avisado said 40 percent will go to small irrigation projects; 29 percent for developing rural industries and village enterprises; 13.65 percent for fishery sector development; 10.5 percent for farm-to-market roads and 6.85 percent for upland farming model villages.

Avisado said Estrada released to seven LGUs a total of P100 million in 1999 for the 42 projects composed of 30 farm-to-market roads and 12 Small Irrigation Development Projects.

The projects are already 94.89 percent completed or a negative slippage of 4.45 percent from the target accomplishment of 99.34 percent.

The second release amounting to P100 million was used to fund the implementation of 19 farm-to-market roads. Of the total projects, four have been completed and 15 are still ongoing.

Unemployment up in Eastern Visayas due to lack of agricultural activities

BY JOEY GABIETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The unemployment rate in Eastern Visayas has soared by almost three percent due to lack of activities in the agriculture sector, the main source of employment in the region.

Carlos Boteros, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE-8), said that as of January this year, the region has an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent or an increase of 2.4 percent compared to 7.8 percent in October last year.

The rise in the unemployment rate also means a corresponding decline in the employment rate in the region. DOLE records showed that the region's employment rate went down to 89.8 percent compared to the October record of 92.2 percent.

The lack of activities in the agriculture sector in the region that contributed mainly in the increase of the unemployment rate was reflected in a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office in the region, Boteros said.

The decline in agriculture activities was brought about by draught, rat infestation and irrigation problems that hit almost all of the region's farmlands, according to Wilma Perante, head of the statistical section of the NSO here.

Agricultural activities in the region are supposed to peak during the planting (May to June, December and January) and harvest (March to April, Septembèr and October) seasons.

Boteros said that about 90 percent of the region's almost one million workers are in the agriculture sector. This makes Eastern Visayas an agriculture-based region in terms of the number of work force, he said.

Eastern Visayas has 1.38 million work force wherein 701,000 belongs to the agriculture sector. Only 155,000 and 530,000 work in the industrial and service sectors, respectively.

Leyte has the biggest number of workers at more than 606,000, with the agriculture and the service sectors registering the same number of workers at 260,000. There are only 86,000 workers in the industrial sector.

Biliran Island has the least number of workers at 57,000 in which 29,000 are in agriculture.

Other provinces with their respective number of workers are: Eastern Samar with 156,000; Northern Samar-174,000; Samar-260,000; and Southern Leyte at 129,000.

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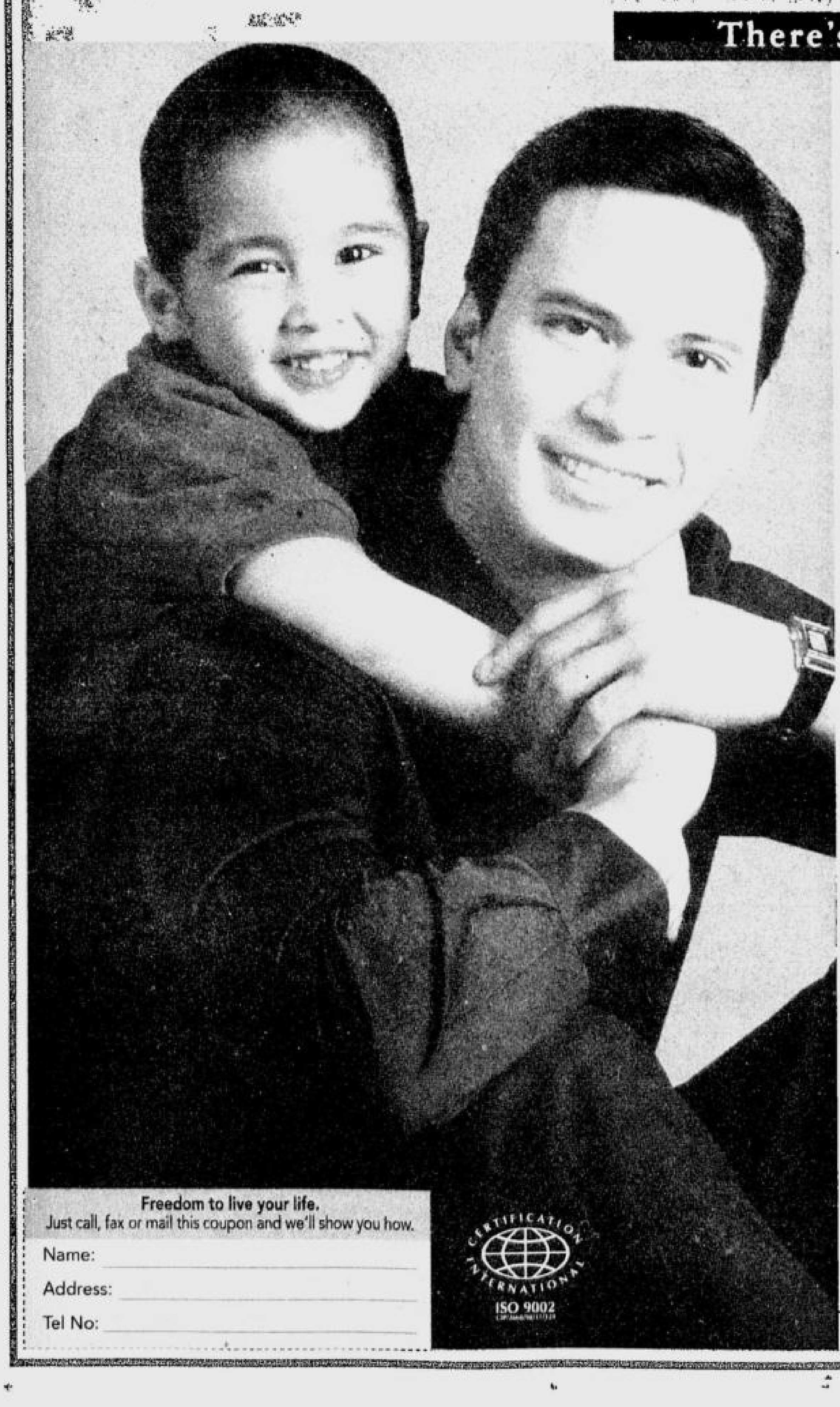

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Climate, culture ensure heritage title of Batanes

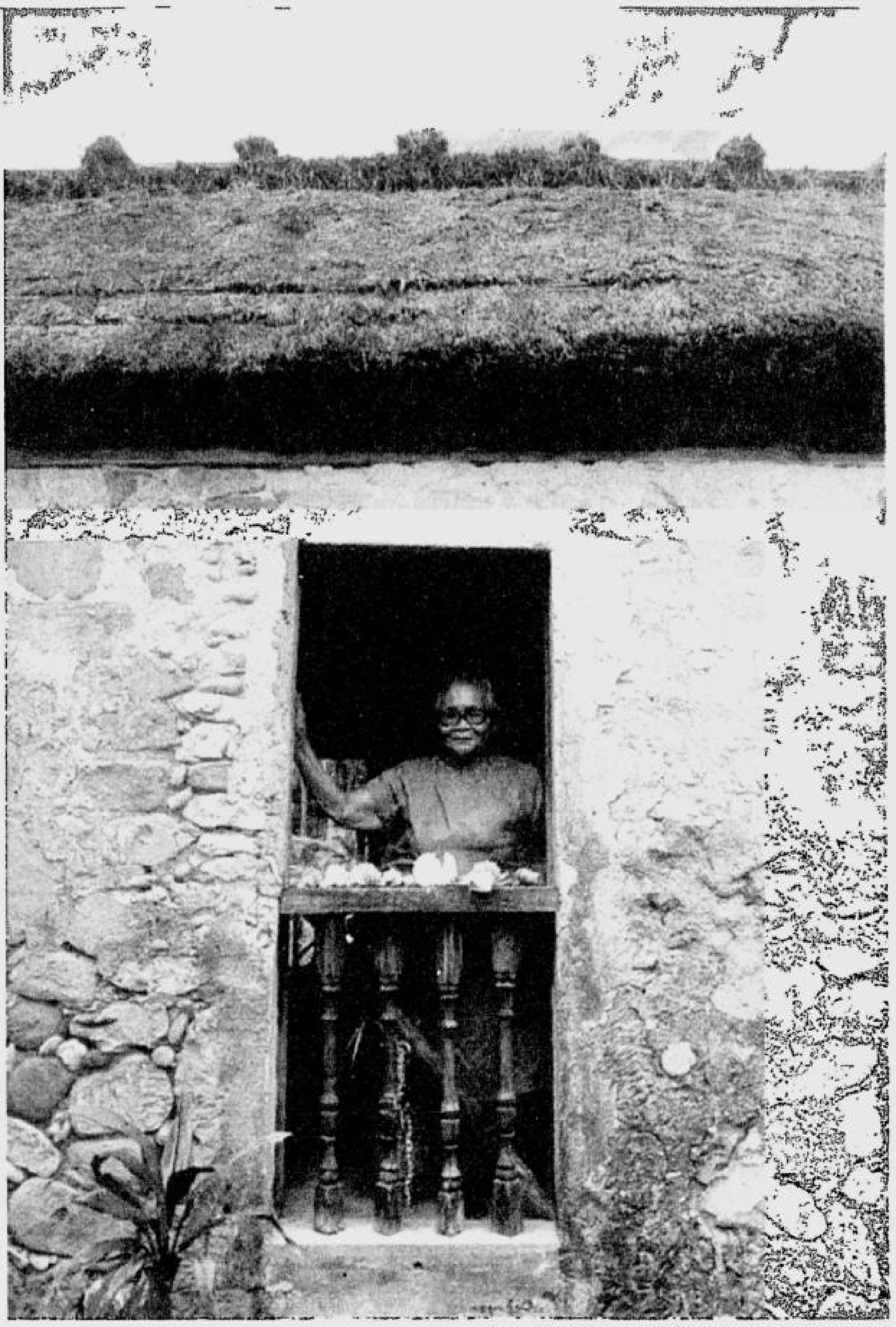


PHOTO BY NOLI GABILO FROM THE BOOK "BATANES PHILIPPINES."

AN OLD Ivatan woman dries shells by the window of her old stone house in Batanes.

BY VINCENT CABREZA
Baguio City

NATURE is ensuring Batanes the second major Filipino title as a World Heritage site, after the Ifugao rice terraces, as both Batanes' climate and its self-contained culture fight off global intrusion, a Batanes tourism official said.

When cement began pouring into Batanes' markets in the last decade, Ivatans (natives of Batanes) began weighing the longevity of concrete houses against their traditional stone huts, said Noli Gabilo, Batanes tourism and marketing officer.

"Cement was far cheaper a commodity so the Ivatan landscape began changing. Then we discovered that cement does not last more than 80 years because the English intended concrete for underwater engineering in their shipping docks. Underwater, it will last. Above water, it deteriorates faster, more so with Batanes weather. So we told Ivatans that their stone houses were hundreds of years older in comparison (with cement houses). That will not be good for the cement industry (in Batanes)," he said.

Batanes' heritage became even clearer on April 18 when about 120 European tourists debarked from a cruise ship to visit the province's stone huts, topped by thatched roofs and enveloped by three-inch thick hard rock and lime for walls.

"Cruise ships do not venture as far as Batanes but this one made it a point to dock in Batanes, our very first, to see our villages. They did not come for the (usual comforts of a resort or a beachfront), they came for our stone houses," Gabilo said.

Clear signs

To visiting members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), these episodes were clear signs that culturally rich and diverse Batanes can withstand the test of a global economy, as well as world attention should it be selected for Unesco protection as a World Heritage site, Gabilo said.

Dr. Florentino Hornedo, an Ivatan and Unesco commissioner, led representatives of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the National Museum and other Unesco officials in a recent tour in Batanes to determine its cultural ecology and its biodiversity.

Batanes also undertook a special consultation with officials about the impending World Heritage listing.

Three teams were distributed to Ivuhos Island where the boat-shaped grave markers are located, Duvek Bay with its "exceptional coral reefs" and a Batanes Ivatan *ijang*, indigenous fortresses used as sanctuaries and "last-stand refuge" by warring tribes.

The visit moved Batanes closer to an endorsement from Unesco, Gabilo told the INQUIRER during a visit to Baguio City last week.

But unlike the novelty of living artifacts which Unesco discovered in the more hyped rice terraces of Ifugao, the country's northernmost province now interests the international community for its rich cultural integrity rather than its complexity.

Smallest province

A Batanes pictorial monograph describes the province as "the smallest province in terms of area and population (that is) closer to Taiwan than Luzon."

But it points out that for Batanes, "everything starts with the weather, (which) shapes everything—the craggy cliffs, rough seas, blustery wind, houses of stone, the people."

"The possible listing of Batanes in the World Heritage list is not only because of its natural heritage, but because of its cultural heritage. *Walang kapareho iyong aming* culture (our culture has nothing else to compare with) within the region. Like the province's boat-shaped grave markers. It is similar only to the burial practices of the Vikings. (National Museum's) Dr. Bong Dizon showed us slides," Gabilo said.

The team also visited Ivatan *ijangs*, which had no cultural comparison in Asia except for Japan.

"In terms of form, the Batan's *ijang* is more beautiful, more preserved, and bore a good choice of designs (compared to the Japanese artifacts). There's only a single trail narrow enough only for one person. A tribe flees to the Ivatan to escape war. On top, logs and rocks can be thrown at invading tribes... We have accounts (about *ijangs*) from (the 1600 memoirs of) a British pirate named William Dampier (which was extensively quoted in a National Museum report on Batanes)," Gabilo said.

"We are likely to be listed (as a World Heritage site based on the recent Unesco tour). After we completed the two-week stakeholders' workshop (which ended this month), they will send in (Unesco) evaluators... this will take an average of six months. After that, they will make their necessary recommendations. It will take another 18 months, according to Richard Engleheart, the Unesco adviser for culture in Asia and the Pacific."

The bureaucratic wait notwithstanding, Batanes is turning out to be an international gem on its own, a factor working in its favor today similar to international attention that was devoted to the now-deteriorating Galapagos Islands in the Pacific, west of Ecuador.

Unlike Ifugao, whose rice terraces were the core focus of preservation, Unesco is interested in drawing together the Ivatan society for its preservation, Gabilo said.

Isolation

"Our isolation contributes to (a sustained culture). We only have Ivatans, there are no other tribes to blend culturally and genetically with (unlike the Ifugaos, whose tribe is enveloped by Igorots from Mt. Province and Kalinga)," he said.

The Unesco team had been studying a fairly young Ivatan generation that now dominates its 15,026 population, mostly fisherfolk.

Gabilo admitted that Ivatans fear the impact of cable television and urban employment on their young.

The province's population remained steady because younger Ivatans tend to migrate out of Batanes for employment, which helps stabilize its cultural dynamics, if not its local economies, he explained.

On that score, he said Batanes had been relying heavily on Unesco support because of the province's economic potentials as a tourism destination.

Batanes' experience with its first cruise ship visit this year had forced officials to start measuring the province's "carrying capacity" for visitors, as well as socially contentious issues such as waste-disposal systems.

"We were elated about the visit. But plastics have started to become part of our economy. Fishermen discover them floating in the water and they use them for containers (apparently thrown overboard by passing cruise ships). But what will we do with them afterwards?" Gabilo asked.

NAGUILIAN MASSACRE

'What is left when honor is lost?'

BY GIA DAMASO DUMO
La Union

"WHAT are you going to kill (her) for? What did (she) ever do to you?"

"(She) never had a chance to do anything to us. (She) never even seen us."

"And she's only going to see us once," said Al from the kitchen.

"What are you going to kill (her) for then," George asked.

"We're killing (her) for a friend. Just to oblige a friend, bright boy."

"Shut up," said Al from the kitchen. "You talk too goddam much!" (parentheses supplied)

THIS conversation from Ernest Hemingway's 1927 short story "The Killers" could well have taken place at a streetside *carinderia* (eatery) in Naguilian, La Union, on the dark, drizzly night of June 18.

A crime imperfect from the start, botched by bungling but heartless men.

Shortly after midnight, June 19, a group of five to six men barged into the run-down one-room shanty of the Ladia family in Barangay Bato, an interior village of rice paddies, wooded hills and dirt roads deeply scarred by vehicles attempting passage during the rainy season.

As the helpless wails of the little children in the house tore through the still night, the killers unflinchingly carried out their savage task.

One of them took Perla Ladia, 17, and eight months pregnant, covered her head with a plastic trash bag and dragged her up a muddy slope beside the house.

The others took turns stabbing and finally shooting to death Perla's six-month pregnant mother, Beatriz, 41, and her mother's live-in partner Ricardo Aveño, 38, inside the house.

A neighbor and relative of the family's, who heard the gunshots and saw Perla being abducted quickly ran to the police for help. When the police arrived at the scene, the killers had fled on foot to the forested areas.

The bloodied and lifeless bodies of Perla's parents were found sprawled on the floor. They bore bullet and multiple stab wounds.

Perla's body was found hanging like a rag doll over a bamboo pole up the slope some 40 meters from her house. She was shot once in the nape at close range.

Policemen led by Chief Insp. Rolando Nana and barangay officials recovered a .38 cal. revolver with a serial number and a blood-stained one-foot long "Rambo" knife.

A shakedown of nearby villages aided by the testimonies of three of Ladia's surviving children yielded three suspects: Mario Ganayo, 36, a houseboy of a village resident; Jonard Granado, 27, a resident of Tubao town; and Romeo Picar, 40, a village resident who works in a poultry.

The three are now detained at the Bauang district jail.

Poor but honest

The Aveños and Ladias were poor but honest folk.

Ricardo, "Kulas" to everyone, would do any odd job for a neighbor when he was not busy with carpentry or farm work.

Beatriz, a tireless mother of seven, would willingly take on laundry jobs after dropping off her 3-year-old to the Bato daycare center, according to village head Lydia Dizon.

Self-sustained and good-natured in spite of their difficult life, they "were assets to the community" and made no enemies, Dizon said.

On the contrary, it was Beatriz and Perla who had been victims many times over—before their brutal murder, by repeated acts of rape by one man who used to work for a government agency mandated to protect the powerless like them.

Court records showed that one David Garcia Jr., 54, a former administrative officer at the Department of Social Welfare and Development regional office in San Fernando City allegedly raped Perla four times in 1997, when she was only 14.

Beatriz used to work as Garcia's laundry woman and alleged that she, too, had been raped by Garcia in the past but did not report the incident because Garcia had threatened to kill her if she did so. But this time, she did not stop her daughter from filing charges.

According to Dizon, Florida Garcia had told her last year that her husband had offered to settle the case amicably with Perla Ladia for an undisclosed amount, which according to an INQUIRER source, was P200,000. She was disappointed when the Ladias had refused the offer allegedly "upon someone's prodding."

After a long and difficult legal battle, fought out with the help of police investigators, social workers and human rights defenders, the courts at last resolved to charge Garcia with rape and acts of lasciviousness. Garcia, who had been terminated from work, was only arrested in January this year.

Prior to the murders, the Ladias had received death threats and talk went around about hired guns, residents told the INQUIRER. Police chief Nana admitted to having advised the family to heed the warning and move out for a while for their own safety, but events caught up with them.

The murders happened hours before the preliminary trial on the case was to take place at the regional trial court in Bauang. In the morning of June 19, after several postponements, Perla would have finally stood face to face with Garcia.

But before dawn, Perla and her parents were dead.

No DSWD man

According to Dizon, Garcia had been at the DSWD for more than 11 years where his last post was administrative officer. But evidently, he is by no means the epitome of a social welfare man.

His family was of above-average income, with a daughter by his first wife working abroad and a son, Jonathan, employed as a seaman. He and his second wife Florida even attended Couple's for Christ meetings, Dizon said.

But Garcia's and Jonathan's names had once been entered in a barangay complaint alleging that father and son had brandished their guns at a resident's guest whom they falsely accused of stoning their house.

The Garcias have since settled the dispute with a sum of P10,000, Dizon said.

Speaking of associations, if former President Joseph Estrada's true friends came through when he was in jail, so, too did Garcia's. Jail officers told the INQUIRER that the three suspects arrested were frequent visitors of Garcia at the Naguilian municipal jail where he was first detained.

Ganayo, being Garcia's house boy for the past three years, used to come on a daily or twice-daily visits to accompany Florida. Granado, who had told police that he was the boyfriend of Garcia's daughter, used to visit every one or two weeks. Picar, Garcia's neighbor, visited least frequently among the three.

Where their friendship and mutual loyalty have led, only the Ladia children, aged 14, 12 and 9, can tell. Deeply traumatized and under grave threat, they have been placed in government custody.

Town heroes

Last Friday Aveño, Beatriz and Perla and their unborn children were buried in a dignified and well-attended ceremony, "fit for a person of importance."

Their burial expenses were taken care of by the municipal government upon the initiative of Naguilian Mayor Reynaldo Flores. The barangay leaders of Bato also provided the jeepneys for the people who came to mourn the death of their town "heroes."

Flores told the crowd that the Ladia women, in spite of their poverty, had rightly chosen honor over money.

"But for defending their honor, they lost their lives. They are our heroes," he said in Ilocano.

He vowed support for the surviving children and urged residents to cooperate with police investigators in shedding light over the case.

The Ladia story is something that needs to be told. Not to show a man's desperate and clumsy attempt to save his neck only to find the noose closing in more tightly around it.

Or to exploit a gory crime perpetrated by amateurs.

Like in "The Killers," the suspense is just an eddy that keeps you looking. But there is something in the image of Ole Anderson, the one the killers were after and who knew it, "with all his clothes on, lying on the bed, looking at the wall," that holds you.

Many events also surround the Ladia story.

In the end, what should make their lives stand out is the solid stillness, the impenetrable calm by which they held on to their honor and dignity.

"What is left when honor is lost?" the maxim goes. For the heroic Ladia women, we know they have everything.

Pay of top gov't execs frozen by Macapagal

(From page A1)

lic service, giving them a 12-month ultimatum to deliver concrete results in their respective turfs.

- Ordered "emergency employment" for an initial batch of 300,000 out-of-school and unemployed youths in Metro Manila.
- Reiterated her call against graft and corruption in the bureaucracy, and to make the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to become her "showcase of a graft-free" government.
- Ordered an intensified drive against crime.

Result-oriented

Tiglao said a Cabinet revamp would be possible if the President is not satisfied with the performance of her official family.

"That would be evaluated if there are no results. Obviously, the President is saying that Cabinet secretaries should be less on talk, less on plans but more on the results," Tiglao said.

The President, he said, abolished the cluster system because this takes up a lot of time and resources instead of enabling the Cabinet officials to focus on their main functions.

"All of the clusters should be dismantled, even Cluster E (on national security). Its work would be practically undertaken by the Cabinet oversight committee. If it's a security concern, it could be the National Security Council," Tiglao said.

Emergency employment

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said an initial 300,000 out-of-school youth would be given emergency employment by next month.

Lina said the various departments and local government units would provide employment to these idle youths.

The directives were the President's response to criticisms against her administration, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Correcting severe imbalance

To correct the "severe pay imbalance," the President ordered the budget department to come up with a pay rationalization plan to reduce the anomalous salaries and benefits.

"Several of them were found out to have such atrocious salaries for a government servant," Tiglao said in a news briefing.

Tiglao said some heads of the GFIs and GOCCs were receiving P10 million a year individually.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, in the same briefing, said these senior officers were receiving salaries and benefits nine to 11 times bigger than their counterparts in the national government agencies and in the private sector.

In Memorandum Order No. 20, the President directed all heads of the GOCCs and GFIs and subsidiaries which are exempted from or not following the Salary Standardization Law (SSL) to implement a pay rationalization in all senior officer positions.

Tiglao said the memo would affect are members of the board of trustees, chairs, chief executive officers down to the executive vice president positions.

He stressed that the rank and file employees would not be affected by the order.

Tiglao said the objective of the President's order was to reduce the pay package received by these plucky officials by scrapping their benefits that include children's allowances, transportation, representational and emergency allowances.

"What happened is that as in previous administrations, these GOCCs have become the milking cow. They have very high salaries which come from the people's money so the President ordered a stop to this," Tiglao said.

"The President thinks this (high salary) is not fit for a government which wants to be austere and have high moral standards," Tiglao added.

MO No. 20 cited the study that "revealed a much superior pay package in GOCCs, GFIs and subsidiaries exempted from the SSL, such that officers in these entities receive at least twice what comparable positions receive in NGAs and some heads of said entities even exceed the average salary of their counterpart positions in the private sector in the Philippines and in the Asean region."

It said such "severe pay imbalance" had to be corrected and harmonized with the level observed in other government agencies.

Fiscal discipline

It said the adoption of fiscal discipline measures in the public sector was necessary to sustain economic recovery and address the fiscal deficit problem.

Monetary officials last week said the government was to review its budget deficit target this year and next after it exceeded its May ceiling.

The country's deficit target this year is P145 billion. The deficit for the five months up to May this year reached P58.33 billion, which is under the P61.7-billion ceiling.

But the deficit for the month of May stood at P30.25 billion well above the P23.49 billion target for the month.

The study stressed the need to channel scarce resources to "more priority and critical concerns like poverty reduction, agriculture modernization and agrarian reform, information and communication technology, tourism, peace and order."

In the MO, the President ordered the preparation of a pay rationalization plan for senior officer positions and members of the board to "reduce the actual pay package to not exceeding two times the standardized rates for comparable national government positions."

She ordered the plan submitted to her through the DBM within one month from the effectivity of the order and implemented starting this year.

Tuesday press con scrapped

Also scrapped starting yesterday was the President's regular Tuesday press conference as it took up a lot of time, explained Press Secretary Noel Cabrera.

Cabrera said that instead of the Tuesday press conference, Tiglao and a number of Cabinet officials would conduct a briefing for Malacañang reporters.

But Cabrera said the President would still hold a press con, though she has not decided when, either on Thursday or Friday.

"MANY lives are lost or ruined. Families are broken..." because of drug abuse, President Macapagal tells the National Anti-Drug Summit on Tuesday during the launching of "Kill Droga." JOAN BONDOC

Want to lose . . .

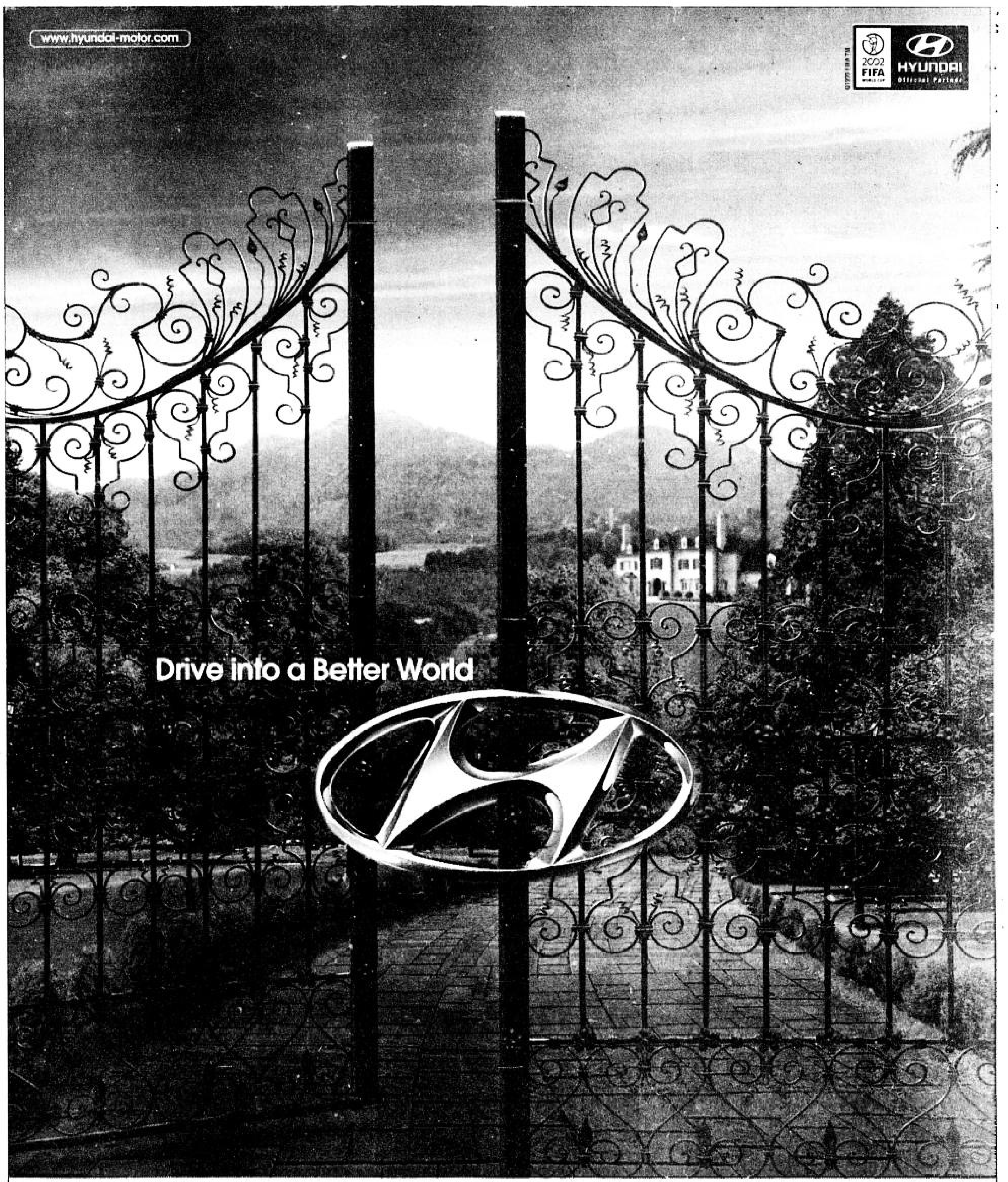
(From page A1)

out earlier.

According to Prof. Eva Rasky of Karl Franzens University in Graz, the more educated girls were "at a level of education where it is not acceptable to be fat."

In contrast, Rasky said, women in the lower classes are fatter because it is tolerated.

"They don't have to prove they have their weight under control," Rasky said. *Reuters*



Too often in life, we are forced to choose between what we need and what we really want. That's why at Hyundai, we build cars that don't make you compromise. Cars with responsive engines, smooth-shifting transmission and exquisitely designed interiors that make you feel comfortable and safe. The new Hyundais. Responsive. Reliable. Affordable. The perfect balance of everything you need in a car.

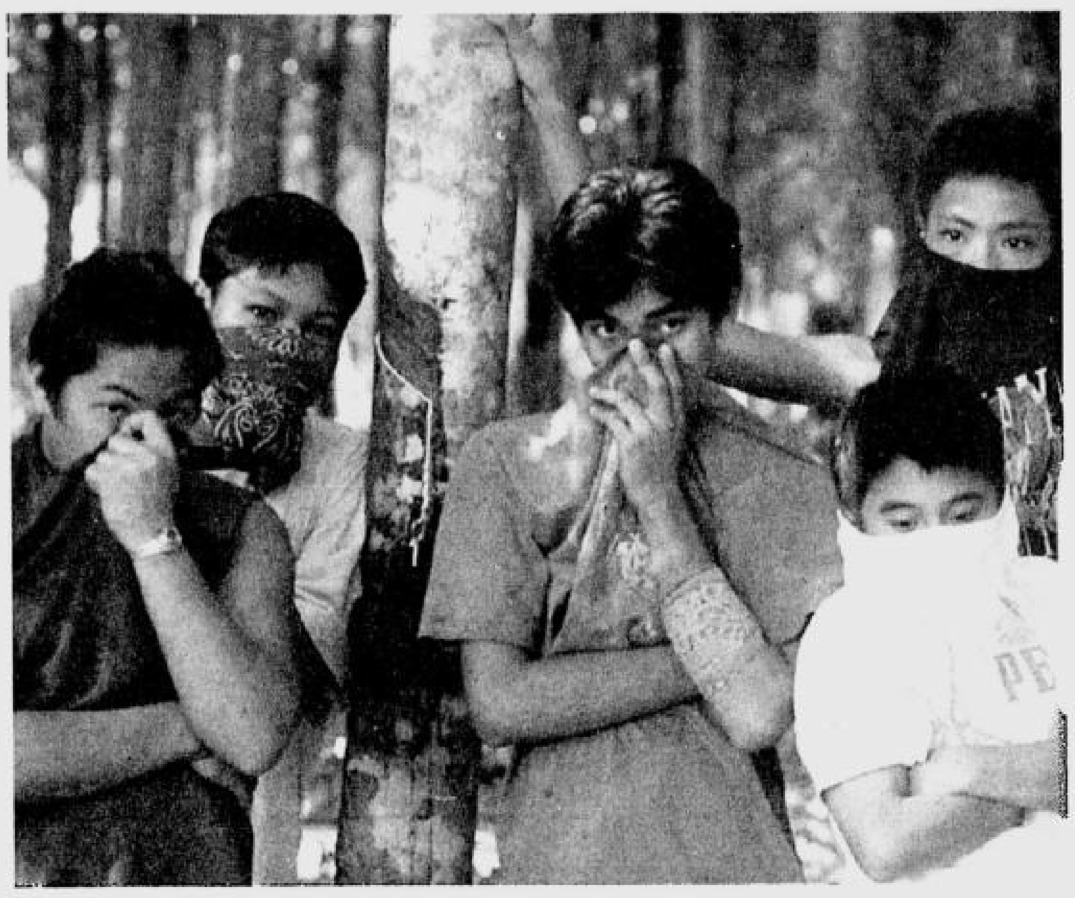
HYUNDAI
PREPARE TO WANT ONE

VAL HANDUMON

SAID to be naming names under intense interrogation by the military, Boy Iran, the alleged Abu Sayyaf intelligence officer, is presented to the media by AFP Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

WHAT'S in the pail? The head of Crisanto Suela beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf found at the rubber plantation in Isabela City.

DENNIS SABANGAN



DEED most foul for the relatives of the beheaded Crisanto Suela who came to the site where his headless body was found. Thirty meters away lay the head of Primitivio Falcasantos. The two were abducted from the Golden Harvest plantation in Lantawan, Basilan.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Captured Abu spy starts singing–AFP

(From page A1)

Defense Undersecretary Antonio Santos, a retired general, overall manager of the hostage crisis in Basilan.

Santos, who was AFP deputy chief of staff of operations (J-3) upon his retirement late last year, was recommended by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Rigoberto Tiglao said.

He said Santos would report to the newly formed Cabinet oversight committee on internal security, which is chaired by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Reyes.

"The President has given General Santos full responsibility to deal with all aspects of the crisis given (its) civilian and military components," Tiglao said at a news briefing. "We feel that General Santos will be able to handle this job."

Reyes, who attended the briefing, said Santos would be responsible for coordinating internal-security operations in Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

"This will be his full-time duty for the next few months," Reyes said, adding that prior to Santos' assignment as J-3 head, he "spent a lot of time with the intelligence community in Mindanao, particularly Region 9 (Western Mindanao)."

Dangerous

Yusop may appear harmless, but according to the military, he is an extremely dangerous man.

According to a short profile that Villanueva read to reporters, Yusop joined the Abu Sayyaf in 1991 and has since been involved in its major undertakings, including the bombing of the Manila Domestic Airport in the mid-1990s.

He also allegedly provided the Abu Sayyaf two 90 mm recoilless rifles for use in the battle against government forces in Punoh Mohadji in Basilan last year.

Yusop is covered by warrants of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted 20 Filipinos and Americans from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan a month ago today.

Of the 20, only six—including American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham—remain in captivity.

The Abu Sayyaf claimed to have beheaded the third American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, 40, but his body has yet to be found.

Sobero's mother and sister aired emotional appeals to the Abu Sayyaf on Monday over Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), to tell them that he was still alive.

The Associated Press quoted RMN as saying yesterday in a newscast that it received a call soon afterward from Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, which it did not air.

Sabaya said he could not grant the request because Sobero is dead, according to RMN.

To the end

The military has been criticized for its continuing failure to deal a decisive blow to the Abu Sayyaf.

But Villanueva said yesterday that the AFP would "see this to the end, no matter how long it stays in the jungles of Basilan."

The military had offered reasons—like the rugged terrain and the alleged assistance given by the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to the bandit group—for the continuing hostage crisis.

At a briefing yesterday, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan cited another reason: the alleged support of the Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace accord with the government in 1995.

Adan cited the clash Sunday in the Basilan capital of Isabela, where, he said, government troops encountered a joint force of Abu Sayyaf and MNLF members.

He said these MNLF fighters were also maintaining a camp in Basilan in which the Abu Sayyaf could take refuge.

Adan said two ranking MNLF leaders in the province, whom he named as Ustadz Jamili and Commander Abu Abugao, were aiding the Abu Sayyaf.

"The enemy that was pursued by our troops sought refuge at the MNLF camp of Commander Abugao," he said.

Adan also told reporters that one of three severed heads earlier recovered in Tuburan, Basilan, belonged to the late Army Cpl. Eutiquio Sulatan of the 55th Infantry Battalion.

The severed heads of two Filipino workers abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from a plantation in Lantawan town on June 11 have also been found.

That of Primitivo Falcasantos was found Monday at 6:45 p.m. about 300 meters from the highway going to Maluso town, Adan said.

Around 7 a.m. yesterday, civilian volunteers recovered the head of Crisanto Suela in Barangay Menzi in Isabela, about 200 meters from where the two headless bodies, lying side by side, were found on Saturday.

Suela's sister-in-law Estelita lamented his brutal death in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, and said some residents had identified the brothers Omair and Bassal Taib among the hostage-takers.

No to Castillo

In Isabela, a supposed emissary of the Abu Sayyaf claimed that unless the government gave in to its demand that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez be sent to negotiate, more hostages would be beheaded

The emissary, who asked not to be named, said the bandits' threat was a display of their strong rejection of government negotiator William Castillo.

He said the earlier beheadings were evidence of this rejection.

"They did not want Castillo since the start," the emissary said in Taglish. "They wanted three negotiators whom they earlier named in the letter (Abu Sayyaf chieftain) Khaddafy Janjalani sent to Malacañang."

In the letter, Janjalani demanded the intervention of MNLF foreign affairs chief Farouk Hussein, former Malaysian Sen. Sairin Karno and Malaysian businessman Yusof Hamdan. But the government maintained that the only authorized negotiator was Castillo.

The emissary said the Abu Sayyaf was planning to behead two more hostages in two or three days.

"The government should do something now because the victims are innocent and poor civilians," he said.

According to reports reaching the AFP Southern Command in Zamboanga City, angry residents of Barangay Tairan in Lantawan captured two suspected bandits in their area.

The residents—friends and neighbors of Falcasantos and Suela—hog-tied the two suspected bandits before torching them.

The bodies were charred beyond recognition.

Southcom spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando said the civilians who made the citizen's arrest could have bagged reward money if authorities had been able to identify the suspected bandits as Abu Sayyaf members.

4 hostages

The supposed emissary said the intensified military operations in Basilan had resulted in the suspension of the expected release of four hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said that in his latest conversation with Sabaya, the Abu Sayyaf aired a demand for more medicines like antibiotics, anti-malaria pills, vitamins and paracetamol for the hostages.

"The problem is that the Abu Sayyaf cannot release its hostages, and the medicines cannot be delivered, because of the military operations," the emissary said.

He said the bandits and their captives were now "very mobile" and "we cannot track them."

However, Lantawan officials believe that some of the bandits are hiding in Barangay Bulanza, and the others, in the Sampinit Complex.

The emissary expressed surprise that Dos Palmas hostage Lalaine Chua, who was supposedly freed last week, was nowhere to be found.

"I'm also wondering where she is right now. Maybe a negotiator tried to hide her somewhere. I learned that the negotiator presented the ransom, but that it was short of P1.4 million," the emissary said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila; Julie Alipala-Inot and Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

RESOLUTION

A.M. No. 01-1-03-SC - *Re: Amendment to Section 3, Rule 41 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.*

The Court resolved to AMEND Section 3, Rule 41 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure to read as follows:

> SEC. 3. ***Period of ordinary appeal; appeal in habeas corpus cases.*** — The appeal shall be taken within fifteen (15) days from notice of the judgment or final order appealed from. Where a record on appeal is required, the appellant shall file a notice of appeal and a record on appeal within thirty (30) days from notice of the judgment or final order. However, an appeal in *habeas corpus* cases shall be taken within forty-eight (48) hours from notice of the judgment or final order appealed from.
>
> The period of appeal shall be interrupted by a timely motion for new trial or reconsideration. No motion for extension of time to file a motion for new trial or reconsideration shall be allowed. (n)

The amendment shall take effect on 15 July, 2001 following the publication of this Resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation not later than 30 June 2001.

Promulgated this 19th day of June, 2001.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

JOSE A.R. MELO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

SANTIAGO M. KAPUNAN
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

BERNARDO P. PARDO
Associate Justice

ARTURO B. BUENA
Associate Justice

MINERVA P. GONZAGA-REYES
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

SABINO R. DE LEON, JR.
Associate Justice

ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

Rains set off minor eruption

(From page A1)

the rainfall starting late Monday until yesterday did not reach a volume sufficient to cause the loosening of millions of cubic meters of volcanic debris and other pyroclastic materials on Mayon's slopes.

Laguerta said the volume of rainfall that would cause a massive mudflow was a continuous one millimeter per minute for at least 24 hours.

During its eruption last year, Mayon dumped over 30 million cubic meters of volcanic debris and pyroclastic materials on its major canals.

A significant volume is deposited downslope of the Bonga gully at the volcano's southeastern side, directly threatening villages in Sto. Domingo town and Legazpi City.

Laguerta said Phivolcs would embark on lahar mapping and other vital tasks as soon as the weather cleared.

According to PDCC chief Cedric Daep, the official number of evacuees housed in 23 centers was over 32,000.

Daep said the new arrivals from beyond the six-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone, now extended to eight km, were expected to stay at the centers for at least two weeks.

He said that if the evacuee population reached the 40,000-level, the PDCC would have a big problem as current resources were enough to provide basic sustenance to only 20,000 people for two weeks.

Daep noted that, as in the past, many residents preferred to stay at the evacuation centers if only for the free food rations.

Bigger one possible

Phivolcs Director Raymundo Punongbayan said on Monday that with the present fluidity of fresh magma, an explosive eruption or even a bigger one was possible following the "fountaining" of lava.

But Alanis said yesterday that this phenomenon could not be observed as the crater was not visible.

Dr. Ernesto Corpus confirmed that Mayon might still continue erupting because the volume of pyroclastic materials ejected since Sunday's eruption was still very much less than that in the February 2000 eruption.

Corpus said the 20-meter-thick lava deposit at the Bonga gully facing this city might erode and cause lahar and mud flows in the event of a continuous heavy downpour.

This will pose a grave hazard to the villages within the permanent danger zone and on the southeast flank facing the Mabinit, Bonga, Matanag and Buyuan gullies, he said.

Phivolcs said these areas were most susceptible to the hazards brought by pyroclastic flows, volcanic blasts and ground surges.

But it warned that in the event of large, explosive eruptions, other areas around the volcano would be affected. In this case, more danger zones will be delineated.

Because of changing wind drifts, residents of areas just beyond the danger zones should expect ash fall and prepare accordingly, it said.

Corpus said that if heavy rains should occur over the volcano, the public should avoid venturing near river channels around Mayon.

He warned that hot and swift debris flow could sweep through residential areas.

Affecting weather

Mayon's eruption has affected not only the lives of Naga City residents but also the local weather for good, a weatherman said yesterday.

Pagasa weather specialist Othelo H. Estareja said the tons of ash and debris ejected had deposited tiny particles in the atmosphere serving as "seeds" for rain clouds.

"The fine particles left in the atmosphere serve as a medium to which the water vapor sticks, grows and becomes heavy, then falls as rain," Estareja said.

He said rains should be expected where tiny volcanic particles were suspended in the atmosphere.

Estareja said that the wind direction at the height of Mayon's eruption on Sunday was unpredictable, and that the particles could have been deposited in several directions.

On Monday heavy ash fall was observed in the southwest towns of Polangui, Ligao, Guinobatan and Camalig. Traces of volcanic debris were also noticed in Iriga City in Camarines Sur, some 100 km from Legazpi.

True to what Estareja had predicted, frequent heavy rains occurred in these places Monday night.

But Estareja said Mayon's effect on the weather was unlike that of Mt. Pinatubo, which is responsible for the biggest volcanic eruption of the century.

He said Pinatubo's ash and volcanic debris had reached the stratosphere, circulated around the world, and lowered the earth's temperature by 0.2 degrees Celsius.

He also debunked the common belief here that the heat emitted during Mayon's eruption had deflected the entry of typhoons into the Bicol region.

He said this belief had no scientific basis, and pointed out that heat actually caused the formation of typhoons.

Humans and animals

In Manila, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said Mayon's eruption would adversely affect human lives and the environment in the Bicol region.

Alvarez said the volcanic gas emanating from Mayon could be harmful to humans, plants and animals, and agricultural crops and property.

"Huge amounts of volcanic gas, such as carbon dioxide, contribute to global warming, while others like sulfur dioxide can cause global cooling and ozone destruction," he said.

Volcanic eruptions inject water, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid and ash (pulverized rock and pumice) into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, while hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids can dissolve water and fall to the earth in the form of acid rain.

Sulfur dioxide is slowly converted into sulfuric acid, and condenses as a mist of fine articles.

"Volcanic gases also severely damage vegetation and causes serious defects in animals, while acid rain corrodes utility lines, farm equipment, cars and other metal objects and may release heavy metals into drinking water," Alvarez said.

He urged Mayon residents to be cautious of exposures to sulfur dioxide, hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen sulfide, which, he said, could damage eyes and the mucous membranes, along with the respiratory system.

He warned that the excessive inhalation of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide could cause death.

Alvarez directed his men in the region to closely coordinate with the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council for the safe evacuation of residents, particularly the 433 community-based forest management program beneficiaries and their dependents residing in the area.

He also asked the environment office in Bicol to check for possible dangerous effects on the environment of the release of gases into the atmosphere, and to monitor occurrences of acid rain and the extent of gas emissions. *With reports from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; PNA*

Don't fly over Mayon, airlines told

THE AIR Transportation Office (ATO) has advised international, domestic and private aircraft against flying over Mayon Volcano.

In a notice to airmen issued Monday, ATO Assistant Secretary Adelberto Yap advised pilots of any aircraft to deviate from two regular airways—the Malaga W9 Legazpi W9 Naga and the Malaga W9 Legazpi W15 Ragay, which had been temporarily closed since the volcano's eruption on Sunday.

Yap also instructed pilots to steer clear of the danger zone with a radius of five nautical miles from the center of Mayon, and to fly at an altitude not lower than 30,000 feet to avoid sucking in volcanic debris that could damage aircraft engines.

The advisory remains in effect until the situation returns to normal.

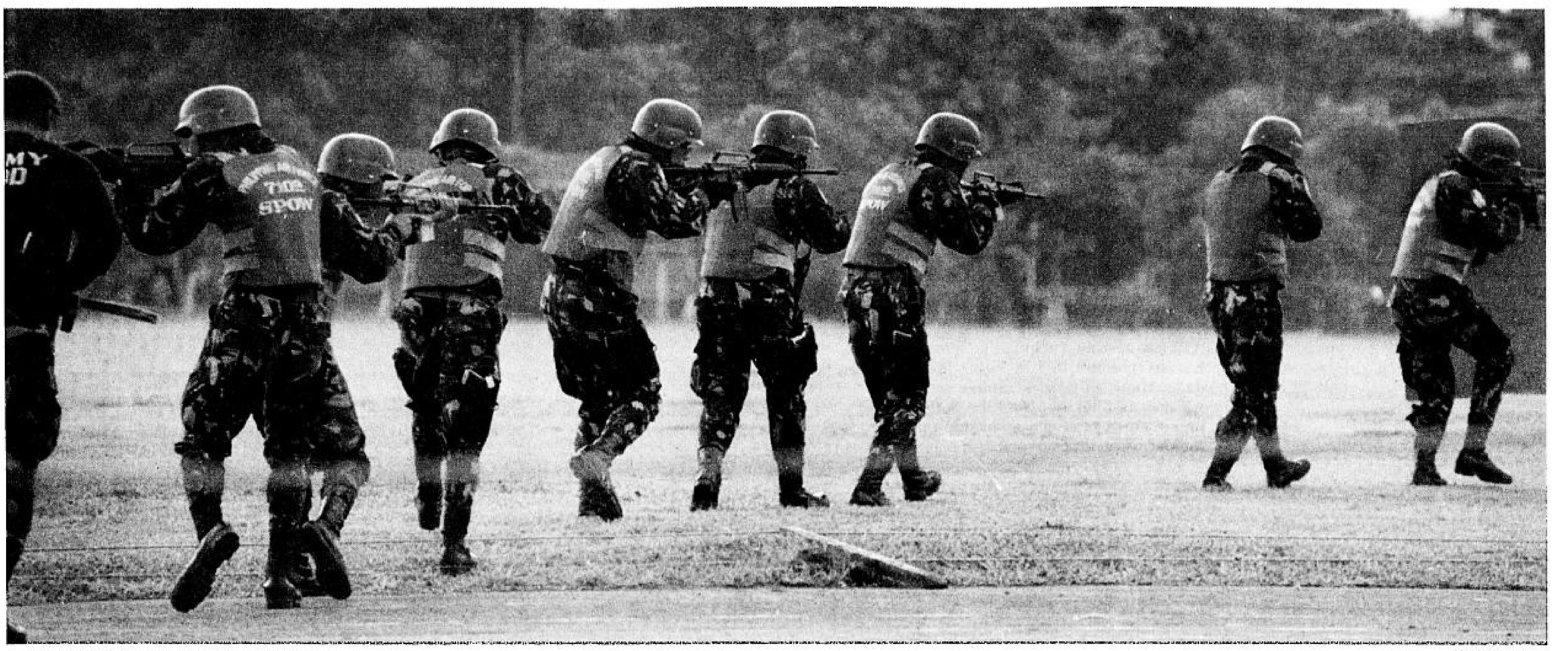
Philippine Airlines, which operates 10 flights a week between Manila and Legazpi, has suspended flights between the two cities from June 25 to July 1. *TJ Burgonio*

Mike A celebrates 55th birthday

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo will celebrate his 55th birthday today with the victims of Mayon's eruption and the residents of depressed areas in Quezon City.

The Philippine News Agency reported that President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband would fly to Legazpi early today to personally distribute relief goods and other assistance to evacuees.

While in Legazpi, Arroyo will also meet with local officials to discuss ways to meet the evacuees' immediate needs, PNA said.



ANTI-TERRORIST exercise at Camp Aguinaldo.

VAL HANDUMON

Erap asks backers to avoid violence

(From page A1)

Tight security was again imposed in Malacañang. Container vans with barbed wires were placed anew at the JP Laurel entrance to the Palace. The gate fronting Mendiola Bridge was closed.

There are intelligence reports that certain ranking military officials have been sought out and promised vast sums of money if they join destabilizing moves.

While no specific details about the destabilization plot had been declassified, Villanueva said: "We just want to make sure we are prepared to face this."

A senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the intelligence community had monitored the problems encountered by opposition quarters in mobilizing people for the mass protests.

Targets of recruitment

The official pointed to Ronald Lumbao, chair of the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty, as one of those who are mobilizing Estrada supporters.

The official confirmed reports of a parallel recruitment drive in the military.

The source said the target were "military officers who are facing retirement." He did not give details.

"They cannot launch a military-type of action precisely because our security apparatuses are on high alert," the official said.

A ranking Army officer, who also asked not to be named, said the time was not yet ripe for the military to be again involved politically like what it did during Edsa II when the AFP withdrew its support from Estrada.

"The Macapagal government has just started making its moves and it's too early," the officer said. "Besides there are no major issues involving its governance."

In a news conference of several Cabinet officials in Malacañang, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the military and police were prepared for the worst destabilization attempt.

No loyalty check

Reyes said no loyalty check was being conducted in the military despite rumors that mid-level officers were being recruited for the overthrow of the five-month-old Macapagal administration.

But Reyes said President Macapagal and her Cabinet were seriously considering convening the National Security Council to respond to the threats. The convening of the NSC was suggested by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

"We do not anticipate a really tumultuous event here, not like what happened on May 1 but as I said we have to be prepared for the worst situation. So I don't think there is any need to be overly alarmed and excited over this," Reyes said.

The AFP, PNP and all security agencies of the government receive intelligence reports all the time about destabilization plots, according to Reyes.

"We don't necessarily believe all of them but we try to verify all of them and take the necessary precautions," he said in a briefing after the Cabinet meeting.

"Now when you are in the security task, your job is to prepare for the worst situation because if you are prepared for the worst then you could handle all the situations that may arise. And that is the situation here," Reyes said.

No coup

He dismissed rumors of a coup.

"Again there are reports and reports always fly around. The easiest in the country is to initiate a report or initiate a text (brigade) but I'd like to inform you we are not even conducting a loyalty check because we don't think there is a need for one. We are confident about the loyalty of our officers whether at the higher, lower or middle levels," Reyes said.

In Camp Crame, Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday confirmed that his office had been monitoring members of armed groups, which may be engaged in destabilization plot against the administration.

In a press briefing, Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said the armed groups had been the subject of persistent intelligence reports that their key members were "recruiting" police and military officers for the destabilization plot.

Mendoza, however, refused to identify the particular group or personalities involved in the plot.

But he said another group of men was making the rounds in several depressed areas in Metro Manila to recruit more people for the planned protest actions.

Arrest plotters

JUST in case, pro-Estrada supporters are set on reviving the "May 1 Mayhem," at the gates of Malacañang, the police have set a blockade of container vans.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan and outgoing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile dared the Macapagal administration to arrest and court-martial people said to be behind the new destabilization plot.

"If there are any suspects, and this is warranted by evidence, let them be arrested and court-martialed if necessary," Honasan said.

"It should name names. It should not engage in allegations. Let's do quiet investigations. If warranted, let us start arresting people," he added.

He said engaging in a "witch-hunt" would be destructive to the economy.

Even administration Sen. Renato Cayetano asked Reyes and Villanueva to "not just talk."

He asked the two officials to "investigate this plot."

"Villanueva should name names to remove suspicions that the Palace is creating its own monster," Cayetano said.

Revealing the name of the plotters, he said, would give them the chance to explain their actions.

In a radio interview, Senator-elect Edgardo Angara said the government should stop resorting to "scapegoating" to cover up their "failure in stopping the rising tide of criminality."

Suspicions

Militant groups belittled the supposed destabilization plot against the administration even as it accused Malacañang of cooking up "something sinister."

They voiced suspicions that the Macapagal administration was "inducing a situation of paralysis" to cover up its inability to resolve the worsening political and economic crisis in the country.

"If there is something real about this new destabilization plot against the government, it is rather the paranoia of the President than the actual existence of the alleged coup plotters," the leftist group Sanlakas said.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, on the other hand, said the revelation of the threat could be part of the government's tactic to divert public attention from "pressing issues" like the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis and the long-delayed arraignment of Estrada.

In his statement, Estrada appealed to loyalists to remain non-violent "in whatever protest actions they seek to undertake against the present administration" at the onset of his trial.

"I make this call in the light of alleged reports of destabilization plots that have prompted the present administration to declare a red alert.

"The government has justified this (red alert status) as part of preparations against threats of imagined destabilization and another round of protest actions against the policies of the Macapagal government by law-abiding citizens," he said.

"I find this unnecessary and grossly exaggerated, primarily because they are intended against unarmed and innocent civilians," Estrada added. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Dave Veridiano and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Elite force ready to battle kidnappers

(From page A1)

its capability in urban warfare, rappelling from a helicopter under heavy rains and simulating a seaborne battle with drug traffickers.

Actafp members also showed how they would seal off an area to prevent civilians from getting caught in the crossfire and how they would rescue hostages held by kidnappers in a speeding bus.

While the Actafp demonstration was going on at Camp Aguinaldo, President Macapagal-Arroyo told the National Anti-Drug Summit at the Manila Hotel that she was setting as her performance objective a drug-free Philippines by 2010.

Ms Macapagal said the battle against illegal drugs was "no less critical and no less immediate" than the government's war against Abu Sayyaf banditry, communist insurgency, terrorism and organized crime.

"Illegal drugs are much more damaging in the long term because they gobble the very heart and hope of our country—the youth," she said on the occasion of the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse.

"Because of illegal drugs, many lives are lost or ruined. Families are broken, brains are ruined just to give way to the gluttony of the few."

According to her, about 1.5 million Filipinos are hooked on illegal drugs.

Distinguished AFP units

The Actafp, led by Lt. Col. Antonio Supnet, is made up of 15 officers and 141 men drawn from distinguished military units, like the Army Rangers, Army Special Forces, Navy Special Warfare Group, Marine Force Reconnaissance, and Air Force Special Operation Wing.

The task force is equipped with bulletproof vests, cutting edge explosives and devices, assault and sniper rifles, and bomb sniffing K-9 dogs.

The Actafp recently completed a two-month training program not only on marksmanship, combat and bomb disposal but also on rules of engagement, legal procedures and human rights.

Lending support to the unit are explosives and ordnance experts, intelligence officers from the Intelligence Service of the AFP, and legal experts from the Judge Advocate General Service.

The Actafp was created to assist the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation, the country's lead agencies on law enforcement, in the fight against high-profile crimes, like kidnapping and illegal drug trafficking.

The task force is based in Fort Bonifacio. Only the Armed Forces chief of staff can authorize the mobilization of the Actafp, and the task force may only go into action in coordination with the PNP and NBI.

The Actafp is a unit separate from the AFP Counter-Terrorist Force that was put up to meet challenges posed by heavily armed groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

War on drugs

The anti-drug summit, spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, ended with the launching of "Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga" or "Kill Droga."

The anti-drug movement under the auspices of the PNP National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center (DEP) was intended to replace the Estrada administration's "Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga" or MAD.

After the ouster of President Joseph Estrada during Edsa People Power II in January, MAD has since become a party-list group that participated in the May 14 congressional election.

According to a primer, MAD's decision to pursue a legislative agenda "consequently severed the movement's affiliation with the DEP Center for political reasons."

Under its "Operation Private Eye," Kill Droga seeks to mobilize the citizens to serve as the eyes and ears in the government's crackdown on illegal drug traffickers.

President Macapagal donated P2 million as seed money for this operation.

During the summit, the President hailed the dismantling of a "shabu" laboratory in Barangay Sto. Nino, Lipa City, on April 28.

In connection with what she described as the country's biggest drug bust, Ms Macapagal handed over P100,000 in reward money to Eleno Mea, the barangay chair who was instrumental in the seizure of P2 billion worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride during the raid.

She said the media ought to play up the government's anti-drug campaign rather than the hostage crisis in Basilan.

"There are many things that we can do if you and me, each and everyone of us would share our minds, hearts and join hands in resolving this pestering problem and lay the drug menace to rest as other countries have been able to do," Ms Macapagal said.

"I am certain that if we do not hesitate in our determination, we can achieve a drug-free society by the year 2010," she said.

Ms Macapagal recalled her experience as Vice President and social welfare secretary during the Estrada administration.

She said some of the street children whom she dealt with had told her how they would sniff a peso worth of glue ("rugby") to kill their hunger pangs.

Ms Macapagal said it was high time illegal drug traffickers pay the price for their nefarious activity.

Erap arraignment for perjury set today

(From page A1)

convincing evidence. The PNP has until this morning to appeal the ruling.

Director Thompson Lantion, PNP community relations chief, said they would file a motion for reconsideration and present "other evidence" of the alleged destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

Lantion said the PNP would insist on the change of venue even if it required holding a closed-door meeting with the first division justices over confidential security matters.

A visibly irked Garchitorena admonished Reyes for phrasing the motion as if the police and the executive branch had a "better judgment" on national security concerns to be considered by the court.

Traffic

"Don't tell us that we (the court) will cause traffic jams. It's not a reason why we won't have any arraignment," he said.

The Sandiganbayan presiding justice further wondered aloud why the PNP thought that changing the venue of the trial could defuse any attempts at "powergrab" against the administration.

"Do you mean to say that if we hold it at the VMMC there will be no more powergrab, no destabilization attempt?" he asked.

To this, Reyes explained that there would be a "reduced risk of confrontation" between police and destabilizing forces if the trial were to be conducted at the VMMC.

"'he physical configuration is different there . . . more controlled," Reyes said. He noted that the military hospital was well fenced and had wider empty spaces.

State Prosecutor Victor Tabanguil merely amplified the PNP position, saying "we can better control VMMC."

Garchitorena retorted: "What makes the roads there 'less confrontational?'" He said the Sandiganbayan Centennial Building "is (the) more secure" venue should bombs be hurled from the outside.

In denying the motion, Garchitorena explained that courts, by practice, only change the venue for trial in cases that call for out-of-town hearings and in trying "convicted prisoners" right at the place of confinement like the National Penitentiary.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority joined the PNP in asking the Sandiganbayan that the trial be conducted at the VMMC.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said holding the trial at the military hospital would avoid costly traffic jams.

Abalos said the MMDA would have to close both lanes of Commonwealth Avenue for at least three hours should the anti-graft court try Estrada at the Sandiganbayan building.

The perjury charge against Estrada stems from allegations that he misdeclared his assets in 1999.

On Monday, the Sandiganbayan's third division postponed the arraignment on a charge of economic plunder that also had been scheduled for today because of pending opposition, including a move by Estrada's lawyers to dismiss the case on constitutional grounds. Plunder is a non-bailable capital offense.

The first division will also hear this morning the motion for reconsideration of Estrada's lawyers asking the court to dismiss the perjury case. The original motion to quash was denied last Friday.

Some 2,500 policemen will be mobilized to secure Estrada in his arraignment today.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said yesterday that the police were "prepared for any contingency that may happen."

"We hope nothing untoward will happen (today) but we are prepared for this event," Lina told a news briefing in Malacañang.

Lina said the executive department had "no choice but to comply" with the Sandiganbayan's ruling rejecting the PNP petition for the trial to be transferred to the VMMC.

He expressed the hope that the Sandiganbayan would reconsider its decision.

Still, Lina said the police was ready to provide Estrada with security.

Dry run

"We had laid down the plan and we have gone through it. In fact we had some dry run to make sure that the former President and his son Jinggoy would be sufficiently and properly secured," Lina said.

He said a minimum of 2,500 police personnel were to be mobilized today.

"If something goes wrong that has to be augmented but we are prepared for any contingency that may happen," Lina said.

Also yesterday, state prosecutors asked the Sandiganbayan's third division to "consolidate" the indirect bribery charge against former Estrada official Jaime "Jimpol" Policarpio with the plunder charge against Estrada et al.

Policarpio was accused in Criminal Case No. 26556 of taking a slice from the monthly "jueteng" payola meant for the deposed President.

As then presidential legislative liaison officer, Policarpio allegedly took P2 million a month from the jueteng bribe collected for Estrada by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

In a motion to consolidate, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said Policarpio's case and the plunder charge "are predicated on the same facts" about Estrada having maintained a jueteng payola network while in power.

Estrada's link to illegal gambling was one of the crimes cited in the plunder charge.

Consolidation would be necessary, Desierto said, "in order to avoid the possibility of conflicting factual findings in both cases."

At the Sandiganbayan, the third division yesterday berated defense lawyers representing Estrada and his co-accused for filing numerous motions that tend to delay the trial.

The court was supposed to start the bail hearings for Estrada co-accused Edward Serapio yesterday. But it could not proceed when a new motion to quash was filed in the morning.

The court was forced to move the bail hearings for Serapio from June 26-28 to July 10-20.

The arraignment for the accused was also moved to July 10. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Nelson Flores and Andrea Trinidad***

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Suarez bows out

CJ SUAREZ failed to sustain the momentum of an explosive stint in the semifinal round as he came up short in the final and lost to Malaysian Zulmazzaran Zulkilli, 184-265, at the close of the second leg of the $25,000 CGU Asian Bowling Tour Monday.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships - Day 2 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 2, First Round at 12 noon (r), Day 3, Second Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

VOLLEYBALL: BCV Volley Masters 2001 - Japan vs Italy at 11 a.m. (r), Russia vs USA at 2:30 p.m. (r), Cuba vs Netherlands at 8 p.m., Croatia vs China at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Buick Classic, Third Round at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Noble Open

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ALWAYS, there's no surrender in sports. The nation may sink in debts, but sports will still stay afloat. A political structure may collapse, but the foundation of sports will remain. In fact, sports will even be an effective tool to prop up a government on the brink of disaster. Didn't Hitler use the Berlin Olympics to camouflage his attempt at world power grab?

I'm saying these if only to emphasize once more the value of the Philippine Open Golf Championship, whose 86th edition will begin tomorrow at Wack Wack; it will end on Sunday.

The Open is our national patrimony, ennobled by its rich history dating back to its birth in 1913. It is Asia's oldest golf event; it is even older than the US Masters, the world's most prestigious golf tournament.

This year's Open has entailed troubles, from organizational to financial. But a troika welded by an unbending will to surmount the odds pulled it out of the fire and will then ride on the crest of their splendid victory long after the Open is over. I refer to Rod Feliciano, Ben Abalos and Benny Gopez. To them, we owe so much for the staging of the 86th Open.

I salute my Insan, Taby Tabaniag, for amplifying in his Manila Standard column the fact that the Open is being staged for the second straight year minus the blessings of the Asian PGA. He so correctly observed that the Filipino is better off without external help "because we always have that latent talent to do things with success, in our own humble way."

Time was when the Open staked dollars as prizes. And time was when the Open kowtowed to the wishes of non-Filipino organizers, who made us second-class citizens in our own national tournament.

The times, they are a-changing.

Last year, no dollars were dangled in the Open staged at Riviera. All but Canadian Rick Gibson reported from the foreign invaders.

And, yes, Frankie Miñoza, the winner at Riviera in the 1998 Open, was not around.

But did the Open suffer in impact? In popularity?

Not at all.

People came. Those who couldn't come followed the event in the papers with uncompromising zeal. Gerald Rosales won it over Tony Lascuña and, right after the awarding ceremonies, the pillars of the tournament, led by Rod Feliciano, Rep. Ed Ermita and Benny Gopez, downed a bottle of cognac in the company of former President Ramos to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Because it can be done minus outside help, a second one is but mandatory. Thus was born the mission to conceive the 86th Open. And with it came the grand plan to return the Open to what many consider as its home: Wack Wack.

Here's a glass to the Open and to the organizers' vision. From a lone Canadian in 2000, the foreign invasion has swelled to 84 coming from 18 countries.

Who said the Open has lost its bite?

Oh, well, Miñoza won't be around anew but what the heck. The Open doesn't need Miñoza as much as the Open doesn't need those APGA jerks masquerading as golf gods of Asia.

The Open will not only survive. As was the Olympics' victory over Hitler's Berlin in 1936, the Open will always succeed like all institutions should.

Isn't that neat?

BRIGHTER SIDE

Open enhances RP image

BY DENNIS U. EROA

AFTER Manny Pacquiao's sensational boxing triumph in Las Vegas last Sunday, the Philippines' image overseas will get another boost as the 86th Philippine Open Golf championship unfurls tomorrow at Wack Wack.

By attracting a large contingent of foreign golfers totalling 84 coming from 16 countries, the fable tournament will showcase to the world the brighter side of the country.

"The foreign competitors will savor our world-famous hospitality. That they are coming over despite what they read about our country is surely a welcome development," said Rod Feliciano, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Feliciano, along with NGAP vice president and organizing committee chair Benny Gopez, and S.P. Malbarosa, general manager of Wack Wack, guested yesterday in the weekly PSA Forum sponsored by AgfaColor and Red Bull at the Holiday Inn.

"We'll assure a safe, pleasant and memorable tournament for the participants," said Feliciano.

The tournament offers a total pot of P9.5 million, with P1.5M and P1M going to the champion and first runner-up, respectively.

Seeing action are golfers from Australia, Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Ecuador, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, the United States and Venezuela.

To maximize the Philippine international exposure, Gopez said the International Management Group will show the highlights of the tournament on the world's leading sports channel, ESPN. "Also the event will be shown on a delayed basis over PTV 4," Gopez said.

Gopez also said that Filipino bets Gerard Cantada, Gerald Rosales and Rodrigo Cuello will give the foreigners a run for their money.

"My crystal ball will not guarantee a Filipino champion. But I can say that two or three locals will make the Top 10," Gopez said.

Cantada will use his familiarity with the course to make a grand debut as a pro.

Wack Wack last hosted Asia's oldest golf championship in 1990, with Robert Pactolerin emerging champion.

Upon the recommendation of Gopez to Wack Wack president Ben Abalos, the Wack Wack front and back nines had been reversed.

"This will make the course exciting, particularly in the last two rounds," said Gopez. "The difficult par-3, 17th hole will be a make or break for the title pretender."

Malbarosa described the course as "spic and span."

"I haven't seen the East course in a better shape than it is now," Malbarosa said, who said he was proud to have witnessed "every RP Open held at Wack Wack since 1968."

The intermittent rains made the fairways softer to make the par 72, 7050-yard layout slightly longer.

Backing the event are Pagcor/Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer. Other sponsors are Mitsubishi Motors, Herma Group of Companies, Hope Luxury Cigarettes, Hanjin Shipping, Prudentialife Pension Plan, General Milling, Metrobank, Bingo Bonanza, Citra Tollways, Rudy Project, Unilever, Metrobank, Marsman Drysdale, Pyramid Construction, Mizuno, Solahart, Citgo, Wallem Shipping, Executive Golfers Club, The Riviera Golf and Country Club, Philippine Navy, GG&A Club Shares, Electrobus Consolidated, Philtec Label, U-Bix, PLDT, Aristocrat Lamps, Pacsports, Caffé Appassionato, Philippine Army, Philippine Navy Golf Club, Villamor Golf Club, G.E. Management, Golf Force, First Georgetown Ventures, Nextel and Cinnabon.

CANTADA (top photo) is expected to perform well at Wack Wack, his home course, when he makes his pro debut in the 86th RP Open. Feliciano and Gopez (above) during yesterday's PSA Forum at Holiday Inn. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Hingis absorbs stunning upset loss

WIMBLEDON, England —Martina Hingis didn't want to join other injured leading women of tennis on the Wimbledon sidelines.

She got there anyway with a stunning opening-day loss.

The world's top-ranked player tried to fight through pain in her lower back but endured the disappointment of a straight-sets setback Monday to the 83rd-ranked player. That 6-4, 6-2 loss to Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain removed a huge obstacle to Jennifer Capriati's bid for the Grand Slam.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras has felt at home on the Wimbledon grass for the last eight tournaments. He won seven of them and took a stride toward a record eighth title and fifth straight by winning his 29th consecutive Wimbledon match, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-4 over Francisco Clavet of Spain. *AP*

Pro-Am ushers in ₱9.5-M tilt

THE CURTAINS are raised for the 86th edition of the Philippine Open golf championship via a pro-am competition today with a full roster of 54 teams seeing action at Wack Wack.

Tee-off starts as early as 6:09 a.m., with VIPs, golf officials and sponsoring guests playing alongside invited foreign and local pros under a best-ball format.

At 8 a.m., the ceremonial balls will be hit by Wack Wack president Ben Abalos, National Golf Association of the Philippines president Rod Feliciano, Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez of the NGAP, chairman Efraim Genuino of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines president and Chief Executive Officer Teruhiko Shibata.

"The foreign players are here, the local pros are raring to go, we're all set for the 2001 Open," organizing committee chair Benny Gopez said.

Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer are the copresenters of this year's Open, with the major support of Mitsubishi Motors, Herma Group and Hope Luxury Cigarette.

Garcia wins again; Tiger 12 shots off

HARRISON, New York —Sergio Garcia, starting to establish his credentials as a serious rival to Tiger Woods, shot a nearly flawless 4-under-par 67 Monday to win the rain-delayed Buick Classic by three strokes.

It was the 21-year-old Spaniard's second PGA Tour victory in five weeks. He won the Colonial in May.

Woods, meanwhile, was never a factor in the final two rounds and finished 12 shots back of Garcia in a tie for 16th. He said after his final round he was golfed out and was going fishing.

Garcia, steady off the tee and nearly always around the cup with his putts, finished with a Buick Classic-tying total of 16-under 268.

Scott Hoch, who shot 68 Monday while playing in the same threesome as Garcia, was alone in second at 271. Billy Andrade, Stewart Cink and J.P. Hayes were two strokes behind Hoch at 273.

Bukidnon hosts Milo netfest June 28-30

NORTH Mindanao netters take center stage when the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop is hosted by the Valencia Tennis Club in Bukidnon on June 28-30.

Featured age groups in the Milo netfest organized by the PSA and SCOOP awardee Children's Tennis Workshop are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

The Philippine Tennis Association (Philta)-sanctioned event is supported by the official outfitter Adidas and the PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids.

"Finally, our junior players here in Bukidnon are being recognized. We are happy to host the first-ever Milo tennis tournament here," said club president Dodong Polinar.

The sixth leg of the Milo Junior Tennis and Regional Workshop is part of the nationwide junior tennis development program of Nestle Philippines Inc.

Ong rules Petron race

SUBIC—Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery celebrated Father's Day with another memorable performance, posting back-to-back victories to rule the Blaze super saloon category in the Petron Grand prix at the Subic International raceway here Sunday.

Hardly bothered by the strong afternoon rains that made the race a lot more difficult, Ong outduelled Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend in the first race and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the second race to pull away in the overall standings in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI).

Overall, Ong has an eight-leg aggregate of 60 points based on a scoring system that gives 10 points to the race winner, six points to the runner-up and four points to the third placer.

Barcial posts 3rd victory

CARMONA, Cavite—Jaime Barcial served notice of his title aspirations, posting his third straight win in the expert open category in the 2001 Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Looking almost unstoppable in his brand-new millennium model Yamaha, Barcial outsteadied his equally talented rivals twice during the day-long event organized by the EL Racing Tech and sponsored by Shell Advance Motorcycle Oil.

"*Swerte talaga. Sana nga magtuloy-tuloy na ito hanggang sa huling karera,*" said Barcial, who also dominated the first leg held on March 11 and second leg on April 1.

The victory—the sixth in as many races—installed Barcial as the overwhelming favorite in this prestigious, seven-part series also sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

Centeno derby at Roligon

AFICIONADOS will be treated to exciting fights with the holding of the Small-Time 4-Cock Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City today.

Hosted by the No. 1 llamador in the country, Abo Centeno, this derby will be participated in by the leading cockers in the country.

Among them are Butch Macasaet, Vic Yu, Madlambayan Brothers, Rep. Rudy Salvador, Romy Pamatpat, Melchor Calauag and Gerry Fevidal and the Pasay Group of Joey Dy.

The provincial groups from Zamboanga and Bacolod have also confirmed their participation.

Promoter Danny (Showdown) Ty, known for his slogan, "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," said the submission of weights between 1.8 and 2.4 kg will be on the day of the derby from 6 to 11 a.m.

Elorde fights July 28

THREE World Boxing Council international championship fights involving Filipino boxers will be featured when the Elorde International Productions holds the Fist of Fury sa Casino Parañaque on July 28.

Randy Mangubat defends his flyweight crown against compatriot Malcolm Tuñacao, the former WBC flyweight champion and current WBC No. 2 contender.

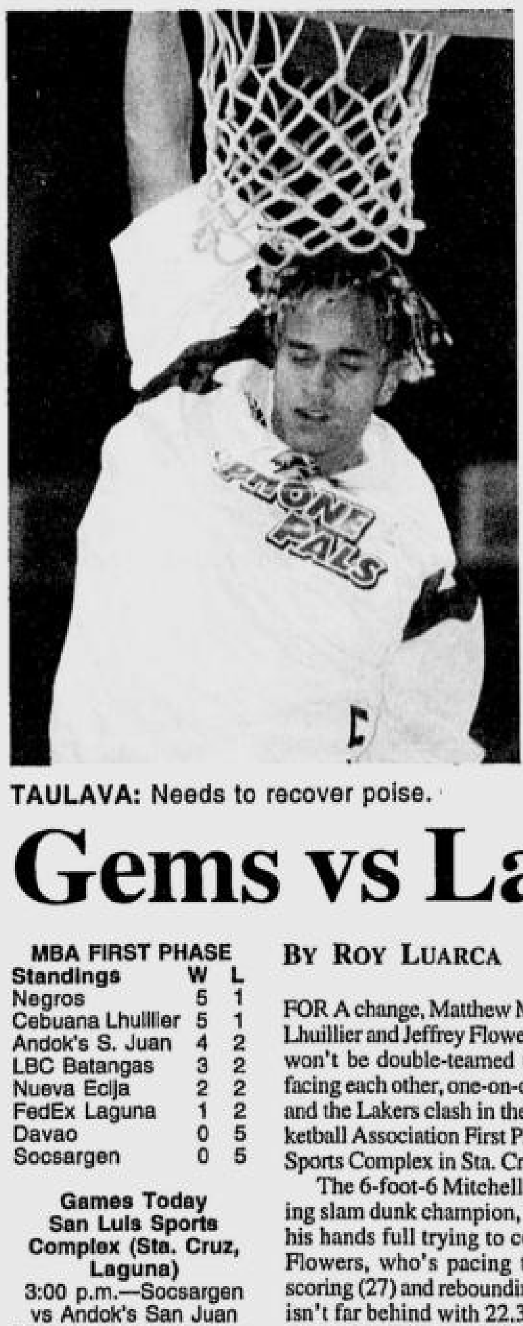
For ticket inquiries, call 8257229.

Hounded by weight problems, Tuñacao lost his flyweight crown to Ponsaklek Wonjongkam of Thailand on March 2.

Juanito Rubillar and elder brother Ernesto clash with foreigners in their bids for the lightflyweight and minimum weight titles.

Juanito battles Japanese Takahiko Mizuno while Ernesto tackles South Korean Taeho Kim.

Promoter Gabriel 'Bebot' Elorde said tickets bought may be exchanged for an equivalent bonus bet certificate at the concierge section .



TAULAVA: Needs to recover poise.

Mobiline tackles Pop Cola

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GIVE Asi Taulava some time.

Mobiline manager Frankie Lim made that plea as the Phone Pals square off with Pop Cola, even as Shell tries to stay in contention against Purefoods in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at Philsports.

Taulava broke his more than a year-long hiatus with a dismal eight-point production before using up most of his six fouls on San Miguel Beer's Danny Ildefonso during Mobiline's 92-73 loss last week.

"It's only a matter of time, he just got back," said Lim. "Give him a week or two to get back in shape. For the meantime, we are just beginning to be a complete team with his presence and we don't want to rush everything."

The Phone Pals hope to make a breakthrough win in their 5:15 p.m. match against the Panthers, who are themselves under-achieving despite having some of the most talented players in their fold.

In the other game, the Turbochargers are in danger of getting booted out ahead of everybody else if they lose to the streaking Hotdogs at 7:30 p.m.

In a way, Taulava shares the same plight with the Phone Pals, who have yet to show their full potential in the league despite a massive build-up through the years and the presence of a high-scoring import in Jerod Ward.

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Alaska	4	1
SMB	4	1
Red Bull	3	2
Mobiline	2	2
Purefoods	2	2
Pop Cola	2	3
Tanduay	2	3
Ginebra	2	3
Sta. Lucia	2	3
Shell	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Mobiline vs Pop
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Shell

St. Louis Philex 3 on 3 finalist

BAGUIO CITY—In a repeat of last year's final, Saint Louis Philex High School exacted revenge on Saint Louis Laboratory High School, 12-6, Friday to become the first finalist in the Nike 3 on 3 basketball championship at the University of Baguio gym.

Joel Caramat knocked in a pair of shots from beyond the arc to give Saint Louis an early 4-2 lead. He led all scorers with six points. Caramat scored six points, including two important winners, to lead Philex over the same team who beat them last year. Russel Rongo added four points while Felix Sia and Philip Gonzales chipped in a point each for Philex, mentored by Enrico Balagot.

Gems vs Lakers in MBA tonight

BY ROY LUARCA

FOR A change, Matthew Mitchell of Cebuana Lhuillier and Jeffrey Flowers of FedEx Laguna won't be double-teamed tonight. They'll be facing each other, one-on-one, when the Gems and the Lakers clash in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The 6-foot-6 Mitchell, the MBA's reigning slam dunk champion, is expected to have his hands full trying to contain the 6-foot-8 Flowers, who's pacing the league in both scoring (27) and rebounding (19.67). Mitchell isn't far behind with 22.33 points and 13.33 rebounds each outing.

Cebuana Lhuillier, however, has had more successes with five victories in six games in the South to share the top spot with Negros, its inaugural-day conqueror.

Having exacted revenge over Negros and beaten Andok's San Juan and LBC Batangas, only Laguna stands in the way of Cebuana Lhuillier being a certified title contender.

Brushing aside Laguna won't be easy.

Though the Lakers have won only once in three games, they bared their pangs with a 109-89 victory over the Socsargen Marlins last Sunday.

Flowers, who had a monstrous 41-point, 24-rebound output against the Marlins, will again spearhead the Lakers with fellow Fil-Am Chris Clay, who's averaging 25.33 points and a team-best 4.33 assists per game.

Still, the Lakers of Coach Bonnie Garcia need an explosive game from Biboy Simon, the league's scoring king in 1998, for them to neutralize the Gems' edge in firepower.

The Gems are averaging 107.83 points an outing, a fraction behind the Knights' 108 average. Aside from Mitchell, who has an able inside partner in Homer Se (17.33 points and 10.17 rebounds each game), other Gems averaging in double figures for coach Tonichi Yturri are Peter Naron (19.50), Stephen Padilla (14.50) and Al Solis (10). San Juan tangles with winless Socsargen in the 3 p.m. opener.

The Knights (4-2) dumped the Davao Eagles, 122-86, on Sunday with assistant coach Allan Borromeo taking over the chores for suspended head coach Philip Cezar.

MBA FIRST PHASE

Standings	W	L
Negros	5	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	1
Andok's S. Juan	4	2
LBC Batangas	3	2
Nueva Ecija	2	2
FedEx Laguna	1	2
Davao	0	5
Socsargen	0	5

Games Today
San Luis Sports Complex (Sta. Cruz, Laguna)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Andok's San Juan
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs FedEx Laguna

BAP SUSPENSION

POC to seek IOC help

By June Navarro

SHOULD all options fail, the Philippine Olympic Committee will seek the help of the International Olympic Committee to solve the long-running Basketball Association of the Philippines controversy.

POC president Celso Dayrit said he would communicate with the IOC's Court of Arbitration for Sports once conflicting parties—Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat and Tiny Literal—refuse to submit themselves to the alternatives offered by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

The Fiba has suspended the Basketball Association of the Philippines Monday for having two leaders performing the same tasks.

Considered as the world governing body in basketball, the Fiba offered two alternatives for Puyat and Literal to settle their rift.

It's either both parties sign a conciliatory memorandum approved by the POC or submit themselves to a Fiba-sanctioned arbitration committee for investigation.

"If they don't submit themselves to either option, then the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sports should step in," said Dayrit.

According to the IOC charter on legislative provisions, the CAS has the liberty to step in once the Fiba fail to consolidate both parties.

It added that the decision of the CAS, which the IOC charter stated as having a legal personality, will be final and executory, government intervention such as courtroom battles notwithstanding.

"This problem must end before the deadline for submission of lineups in the Southeast Asian Games," said Dayrit. "Otherwise, we will be left with no basketball team in the games."

The list of RP team members bound for the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games should be submitted not later than July 15 to the SEAG Organizing Committee in Malaysia.

Dayrit said he saw the Fiba suspension coming but failed to prevent it as both parties proved to be stubborn.

"So it did not come as a surprise. Really, a suspension was a possibility," said Dayrit.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no1542 series of 2001

NCAA bars players from joining PBL

By June Navarro

ABIDING by the Games and Amusements Board ruling, the National Collegiate Athletic Association barred its players from strutting their wares in the Philippine Basketball League.

Rachab Cunanan, athletic director of this year's host Philippine Christian University, said the NCAA board recently passed a resolution disallowing their players to participate in the PBL, considered as a professional league by GAB.

"The NCAA is a school-based organization, therefore it is amateur. We don't want to transgress the GAB ruling on the PBL, which was rendered as professional," said Cunanan during the PSA Forum yesterday.

Prior to the GAB decision, the NCAA had a memorandum of agreement with the PBL, stating that NCAA cagers could only don the PBL colors after three years of playing for the school-based league.

The MOA, Cunanan said, has been rescinded ever since the GAB ruling came out.

"The MOA will only again be put in effect once the GAB decision is reversed," said Cunanan.

The PBL board is presently lobbying for a reversal of the GAB ruling before Malacañang, pointing out that the league is a non-profit organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and therefore should not be taxed.

Cunanan also bared that host PCU is in the final phase of its preparation for the opening of the 77th NCAA season on July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum.

With the theme "Revitalizing the Heritage of Sports," this year's NCAA will delve on the importance of amateurism, discipline and sportsmanship.

Games will be aired live over PTV-4 by Media Conglomerates, Inc. through the facilities of Silverstar Communications.

Hotheads have no place in 'sabong'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

VETERAN Filipino cocker Bobby Doromal owes the cockfighting fans an apology for conduct unbecoming of a sportsman during the recent World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

In full view of the public, including some invited foreign participants, many were stunned to see Doromal act so irresponsibly by losing his cool and hitting hard with his hand (others say with his foot) the glass panel of the pit door which broke upon impact after the *sentenciador* (referee) has tendered his decision in fight No. 27 last Friday night during the finals of the three-day "Olympics of Cockfighting." The ugly incident happened when Doromal's entry, RPD 77 Miraculous team, figured in a pulse-pounding draw with Dada Guam-SL Gapan of Guam-based Sedfrey Linsangan, an invited guest of derby hosts Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Gov. Ito Yñares and the Firefly Group of the organizing National Cockers Association.

"The ill-tempered Doromal has spoiled somewhat the success of the derby," said disgruntled fans. "His behavior all too suddenly revealed his true colors. He sucks."

In the beginning, many, including this writer, have been Doromal's loyal admirers. But after Friday's incident, his avid supporters are now losing faith in him, nursing second thoughts about his real character. For surely, his misconduct has sent the wrong message to the sporting public.

I pity Mr. Doromal. It is very sad to know that a veteran cocker like him could behave that way. Somebody should tell him about the rules of the game, about submitting himself to the decision of the *sentenciador*, about obeying the time-honored maxim that "the referee's decision is final."

Like all kinds of sporting event, cockfighting rules must be obeyed at all times to ensure fairness in the competition and respect for the verdicts of officials. Otherwise, there will be chaos and the event, in this case, cockfighting, will cease to be a sport among gentlemen, but a contest among participants with twisted minds.

I hope Mr. Doromal will get rid of his tantrums and apologize to his fellow *sabungeros* for his misconduct. *Sabong*, may I remind him, is a sport among gentlemen, a sport where hotheads have no place, much less, take part in an event meant to promote sportsmanship, camaraderie and fair play.

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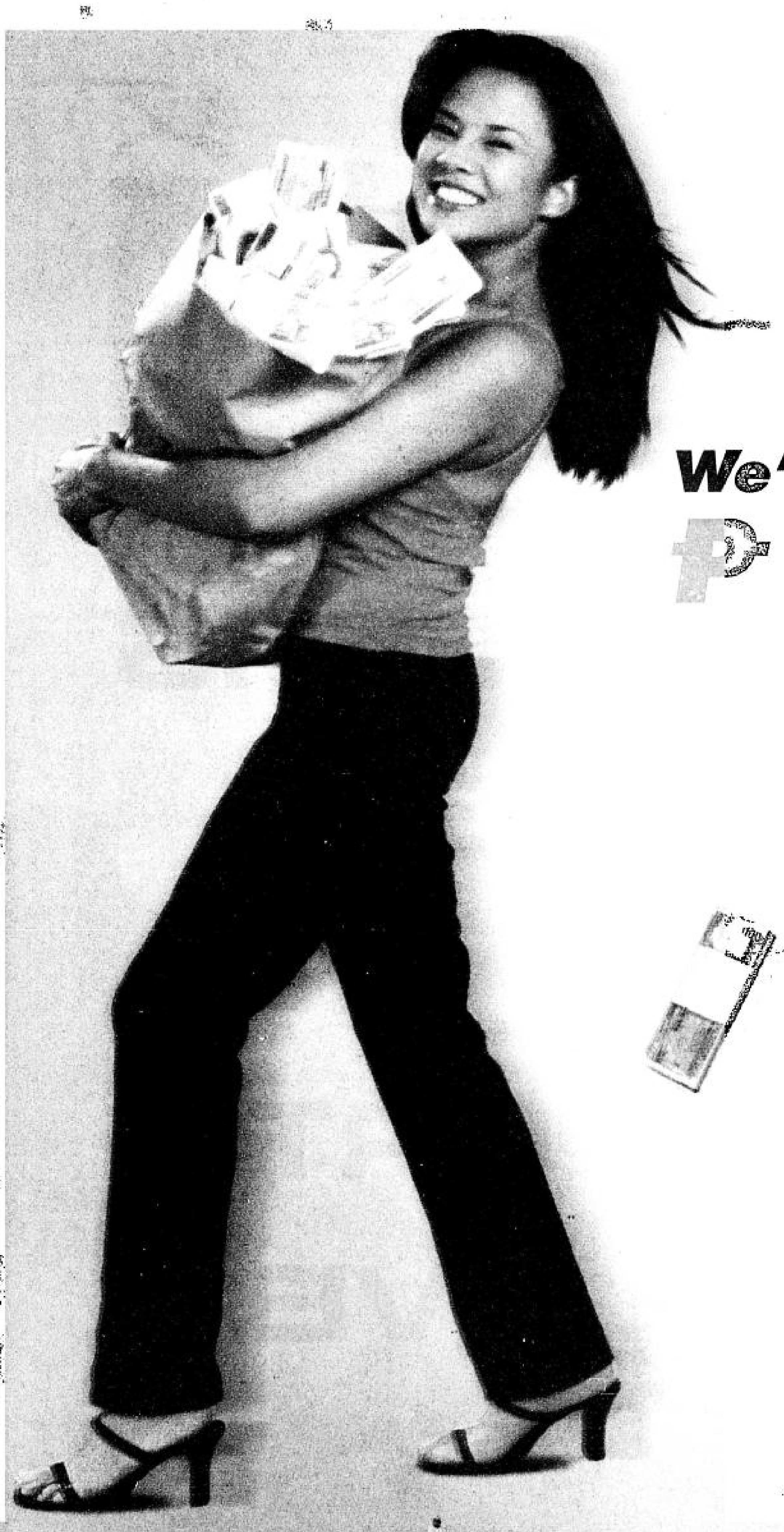

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0569 Series of 2001

▨ **Guard killed in health club rob** A22
▨ **Bare Eye—Pacquiao: First Tango in Vegas** A22

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Airport janitress returns $10,000 left by 2 Indians

A JANITRESS earning P180 a day returned an envelope containing $10,000 cash, or more than P.5 mil-

AIRPORT JANITRESS/ A22

Cop, woman shot dead in holdup

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

PO3 HENRY Ubalde and a 19-year-old woman were shot and stabbed dead in another bloody robbery before dawn yesterday in Quezon City.

Four other passengers were injured when the robbers engaged Ubalde in a firefight inside a jeepney.

Ubalde, of 621 Lapu-lapu Street, Manggahan, Pasig City and assigned to the office of Interior Secretary Joey Lina, was killed when one of five robbers shot him in the chest and the foot, said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District director.

Labenia C. Bulanan, of 102 Everlasting Street, PCPG Compound, Diliman, Quezon City, died at the East Avenue Medical Center after she was shot in the neck, Tor added.

Police identified the wounded as Armando C. Palmiano, 18, of Navotas; Joy Dominguez, of

COP, WOMAN/ A22

Preventive suspension for 10 cops

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday ordered the immediate preventive suspension of 10 police officers involved in the accidental killing of New World Hotel chief steward Fernando Lozada and his daughter's best friend whom they mistook for kidnappers last month.

Desierto issued the order following the release of the initial findings of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the military indicating "strong evidence"

PREVENTIVE/A22

DENR reviews Mehan ECC

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered a review of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) it earlier issued to the Manila city hall in connection with the Mehan Garden project.

The battle to save the garden took a positive turn when Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez heeded the clamor of environmentalists, historians and concerned citizens to spare the historic garden from destruction.

DENR REVIEWS/ A22

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Shooting champ 'kin' nabbed in gun bust

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR carrying two unlicensed guns, police arrested on Monday a young man said to be a nephew of Olympic shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla in Malabon City.

Harold Padilla, 22, of Luna 2, Barangay San Agustin, Malabon, and his companion Jericho Balmores, 18, of Barangay Ibaba, were arrested at a police checkpoint, said case investigator SPO1 George Gubatan.

Police stopped the gray Toyota Corolla (PLK-735) driven by Padilla during a routine check by the Malabon Police Mobile Patrol Unit on Gen. Luna Street in San Agustin.

Investigation showed police noticed a gun was partially concealed on the floor of the vehicle.

They said they asked Padilla to step out of the car and found a .22-caliber Colt revolver tucked in his belt. An 18-inch homemade shotgun with one live ammunition was also found on Balmores, police said.

The mobile team was composed of SPO1 Reynald Lim, PO2 Antonio Villacorta, PO1 Domingo Valerio Sr., and PO1 Antonio Fernandez.

During police interrogation, the two suspects failed to show a license to carry the firearms.

Police yesterday filed charges of illegal possession of firearms against Padilla and Balmores.

The Malabon city prosecutor's office recommended a P100,000 bail for each suspect.

Guard slain in health club rob

By Jerome Aning

A SECURITY guard was shot dead when three men reportedly tried to rob a health club in Malate, Manila late Monday night.

Reynaldo Cagasgas, 40, of the Majestic Security and Protective Agency and detailed at the Manila Bay Health and Fitness Center at 778 Quirino Avenue in Malate, was shot in the chest and died while being treated at the Ospital ng Maynila, police said.

Two of the suspects, Napoleon Costa, 31, of 745-A Bataan Street, Malate, and Daniel Ticman, were arrested in a follow-up operation by members of the Western Police District Station 9 about 11 a.m. yesterday on Leveriza Street.

Police are hunting down the third man, identified only as Pete, who managed to escape.

Receptionist Sharon Tabuada, 18, of 2480 Mercurio Street, San Andres Bukid, told investigators she was outside the club taking a break when she saw the suspects, who were standing at the parking lot, approach the guard at 10:20 p.m.

One of them pointed a .38-caliber handgun at the watchman as the other two were about to enter the club, a popular hangout of rich businessmen and foreigners in the city's tourist belt, police said.

But Cagasgas, a resident of 1363 La Torre Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tried to fight off the suspects and was shot. Apparently too scared to proceed with the robbery, the suspects fled, police said.

WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos presented Costa and Ticman to reporters at the WPD headquarters yesterday and said Tabuada had identified the two as the men who shot the security guard.

Police said the two have confessed to the crime and said they merely wanted to rob the owner of one of the cars at the parking lot.

Pacquiao: First tango in Vegas

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE NAME was either mispronounced or misspelled, but amazed American fight fans ought to ask if Pacquiao is now synonymous to lightning or thunder.

Here's the truth, anyway. Manny Pacquiao, newly crowned International Boxing Federation (IBF) super bantamweight (122 pounds) king, would've ended up shamed, battered, bloodied and crying, just like other Filipino glory seekers in glitter town Las Vegas before him, if he had fought like his old, careless self.

Unfortunately for the outclassed South African defending champion from Soweto, it was a sharp, smooth, totally new fighter who gallantly met him at mid-ring.

Pacquiao did appear both tense and hungry at opening bell.

But what soon stood out was his newfound maturity.

Pacquiao controlled himself, moved with a wholesome combine of finesse and ferocity.

The result was an unforgiving force—call it a whirlwind or a maelstrom—which soon swallowed, swayed and shook down the disbelieving foe.

* * *

After the first big blow alone, a crunching left straight that landed bulls-eye smack on the nose, Lehlo Ledwaba stooped and tried to seek cover like a bare-headed traveler caught in a sudden downpour.

This was in the first round which Pacquiao took handily.

In the second round, Pacquiao, visibly stunned by his own sharpness, was a picture of controlled rage.

He could've gone on for the kill, but still opted to wait for the final seconds before lashing out with a killer combination.

The punches, coming in a blinding flurry, were almost imperceptible to the human eye. In fact, referee Joe Cortez (no relation to sports scribe Noli Cortez) was caught debating with himself whether or not to count after the African champ slumped and rolled on the canvas.

Only after Ledwaba failed to rise from the suspected slip did the referee make the right move and ruled a knockdown.

Ledwaba, his nose moist with blood, next managed to rise feebly. But he was already gone.

The stunned African ruler did try a comeback in the next round. He threw some hefty punches, big killer bombs they seemed, but Pacquiao, unlike in the past, was nowhere to be found.

And all he had to do was follow to the letter his American handler of only three weeks.

Fred Roach—take a bow please—had Pacquiao bouncing, shifting or jumping, always moving out of the middle, away from the path of his opponent's fabled fists. Pacquiao now relied on sly, relentless jabbing to set up.

And, importantly, Roach has succeeded in converting Pacquiao's mighty fists from a bludgeon into a scythe.

* * *

The championship was a fast, furious classic. But revisited in one's amazed mind, the bout was a stark study in contrast, with the eventual victor achieving what had been thought as incredible by simply refusing to fight his old kamikaze way.

In short, you can't call that big win vintage Pacquiao.

He did not rock and roll as he had been wont to do in his previous fights.

He did not scatter his talent as he had done in that last win in Davao against a Thai.

Of course, one good thing for the new IBF 122-pound champ was that he was no stranger to the great challenge.

Having had fought one careless fight to win the WBC flyweight title, he, naturally, no longer felt giddy shooting for another world crown.

Unlike with other Filipino glory seekers in Vegas before him, the floor felt very firm for the gallant General Santos native.

* * *

But one question comes to mind. Would Pacquiao have dominated and won had he fought like his immature, suicidal self in winning the WBC crown against Thailand's Chartchai Sasakul in December 1998?

The answer is a clear "No!"

Another question: Would've he stopped the overrated Ledwaba had he started with a waltzy tempo before pouring it all out in the latter rounds, as he had done in Davao against a tough and sharp Thai challenger with an unpronounceable family name?

The answer is a big "No" again.

Out there at Las Vegas, Manny Pacquiao suddenly discovered ripeness.

If he were a fruit, the years had rendered him in perfect maturity at the right time.

Manny Pacquiao, 24, discovered perfect rhythm in that great, big night. With the whole world watching.

Now, for the record, Pacquiao completed that virtuoso performance by neither going too slow nor sickeningly fast.

He did not waltz to keep pace with the subdued foe.

Neither did Manny rock.

Pacquiao merged rhythm and passion. He took control and came up with an unforgettable win dancing the tango.

(They said Oscar de la Hoya also fought in that same card.)

Taguig homeowners group vice president killed

TWO unidentified men shot dead the vice president of the Camp Bagong Diwa Homeowners Association in Taguig early Monday morning, police reported yesterday.

Dominador Navo, 59, of Main Avenue, Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, died from several gunshot wounds, police said.

Investigators said the shooting happened at 4:30 a.m. while Navo was waiting for a ride home in front of the Bicutan market.

Police said the two men approached Navo from behind and shot him without any provocation. The gunmen then walked away.

Police said the killing could be due to an old grudge.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District Office director, ordered a thorough investigation of the shooting.

Gutierrez said the killing could be the result of an internal power play in the homeowners' association.

Nelson F. Flores

Boss of robbery gang preying on women falls

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE yesterday arrested the leader of a notorious robbery gang victimizing mostly female students and young office workers in northern Manila.

Members of the Caloocan Police Station Investigation Division identified the suspect as Charlie Lontoc, 26, a resident of Lawang-Bato, Bulacan.

Lontoc was arrested near the Philippine National Railway Compound on Samson Road, Caloocan at around 2 a.m.

Two other alleged gang members, who were identified only as Jeff and Nog-Nog, were able to escape.

The three men were about to rob the passengers of a jeepney when they were arrested, said investigators PO3 Joseph de la Cruz and PO2 Edgar Manapat.

Found on Lontoc were a shotgun with 12-gauge ammunition and one plastic sachet believed to be containing methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, police said.

The arrest came after several victims, mostly female students and office workers, trooped to the police headquarters and claimed that three men robbed them on Samson Road.

PO2 Manapat said the suspects usually victimized passengers of jeepneys plying the Monumento-Malabon-Navotas route.

Upon reaching a dark area on Samson Road, the suspects would announce the holdup and divest passengers and jeepney drivers of their belongings, police said.

Two 19-year-old women—a student and an employee—claimed they were robbed by the suspects.

Police yesterday filed robbery charges against Lontoc and his companions before the city prosecutor's office.

Cop, woman shot dead in holdup

(From page A21)

Murphy, Quezon City; Carmilo S. Yap, 31, of 3576 Batas Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila; and Michael P. Malate, 23, of Urban, Lupang Pangako, Payatas, Quezon City.

Tor claimed his men were able to capture one of the suspects, a 16-year-old boy from San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. The boy was allegedly shot by Ubalde and was caught when he went to a hospital for treatment of the gunshot wound on his foot.

The young suspect identified the other robbers as "Baba," "Danilo," "Kalbo" and "Darius," Tor said.

Tor said Bulanan and the other passengers were on board a jeepney (NYR-453) driven by Ramon Baron bound for Cubao, when the group announced the holdup about 1:30 a.m. yesterday at the corner of East Avenue and Matapang Street.

The robbers, armed with a handgun, ice picks, and fan knives, divest the passengers of their personal belongings, police said.

When the robbers turned to the lawman, Ubalde refused to surrender his wallet and quickly pulled out his .45-cal. pistol, said Malate, one of the wounded passengers.

Malate told the INQUIRER one of the suspects tried to wrestle the gun from Ubalde, but Baba, who was armed with a gun of unknown caliber, shot the lawman.

Pandemonium broke out inside the jeepney as Ubalde returned fire and hit the 16-year-old suspect. The other robbers began shooting and stabbing everyone inside the jeepney.

Dominguez was stabbed with an ice pick in the left foot, Palmiano was shot in the back, while Yap was stabbed in the body.

Airport janitress . . .

(From page A21)

lion, left behind in the pre-departure area of the old Manila Domestic Airport on Monday.

Flor Mondoyo, of 3rd Street, Villamor Air Base, earned the praise of her colleagues at the airport. But she did not get any thanks from Indian nationals Nedhal Alohalain and Abdul Hakeem Aman who had left the envelope containing the money on a seat in the pre-departure area about 10 a.m. Monday. The Indians were bound for Baguio City on an Asian Spirit flight.

Mondoyo immediately turned over the envelope to terminal operations officer Dina de Leon and was surprised when told that it contained a large amount of money in crisp $100 bills. De Leon had peeked at the sealed envelope and saw the money.

But it was Mondoyo herself who spotted the owners of the money. She saw Alohalain and Aman at the pre-departure area apparently looking for something. The two also looked very worried.

Mondoyo asked De Leon, the duty officer of the terminal's paging section, to page the owner of an envelope that was left behind.

The two Indians went to the paging section and claimed the envelope. They said they had already boarded an Asian Spirit plane bound for Baguio City when they learned that the envelope containing the money was missing.

In their haste to get back to the plane, they failed to even thank Mondoyo for returning the envelope. An airline crew confirmed that the envelope contained $10,000.

"The airport authority commends her (Mondoyo) for her honesty," De Leon said in a phone interview. "Her single act of honesty goes a long way in improving the image of the airport."

Mondoyo had already left after her 6 a.m.-2 p.m. duty when the INQUIRER called her for comment.

TJ Burgonio

Preventive suspension . . .

(From page A21)

of gross misconduct against the policemen.

On May 17, police officers under Philippine National Police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya shot Lozada and Marian Uson, 18, thinking they were kidnappers out to collect ransom for the release of Mark Harry Bacalla.

"Initial investigation showed that at the time of the incident, the policemen had nothing to identify themselves as agents of the law, thus forcing Lozada to avoid them," said the official statement of the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The police operatives were apparently in mufti, wore no badges or ID but were fully armed," it added.

Named in the Office of the Ombudsman's official statement were P/Supt. Edgar Gayas Iglesia, P/Chief Insp. James Buslig Mejia, P/Senior Insp. Edwin de Luna Portento, P/Insp. Ceasar Percival Loquio Pangda, P/Insp. Cristine Meris Tabdi, P/Insp. Preston Kis-ing Bagangan, PO1s Frederick Tango Taala, John Suela Bolatin, Arnold Teruel Solas and Cheerylyn Dangcal Tundayag.

Lozada was driving Uson and his daughter to a debut party in Damar Village, Quezon City when they were shot by the policemen.

DENR reviews Mehan . . .

(From page A21)

"We acknowledge that the project will allow the construction of an academy of knowledge for our youth, but it entails the cutting down of centuries-old trees and the possible destruction of a historical site," Alvarez said. "All these must be considered."

DENR documents showed that the ECC was granted to the city government last May 23 by the DENR-NCR office for the construction of the controversial City College of Manila complex at the Mehan Garden.

In a letter to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza dated June 25, Environment Undersecretary for Legal Gregorio Cabantac said that City Ordinance No. 8000 designating Mehan Garden as the permanent site of the City College of Manila may have violated a law on historical sites.

Cabantac said the DENR believes that the designation was done without prior approval by the National Historical Institute (NHI), in violation of Presidential Decree 260 as amended by PD 505.

The decree states that it is unlawful to modify, alter, repair or destroy the original features of any national shrine or monument without prior written permission from the NHI chair.

Alvarez said the historic significance of the Mehan Garden was even acknowledged by the city council of Manila when its historical research and markers committee installed a marker at the site.

He stressed that the social acceptability factor of the project, a prerequisite for the issuance of an ECC, may have also been overlooked.

Alvarez set a public hearing on the issue at the DENR office on Friday at 10 a.m.

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The return of movie magic

Robinsons Movieworld's new 'lifestyle cinema' setup gives an ultimate movie experience that's hard to forget

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

THE ULTIMATE movie magic is the total experience of being transported to another dimension where you forget about life's daily grind, feel exalted, and be so engrossed with the movie. It's the feeling of getting carried away—almost completely—as you laugh and cry with the scenes. Nothing on earth would pull you out of your seat.

That should be the ultimate experience you get inside a good moviehouse. To go see a movie should be worth your time, money and effort. At the new Robinsons Movieworld in Galleria, the movie magic experience can be had for less than you pay for.

See for yourself. The place has been totally rebuilt. Walls pushed back, the number of cinemas increased to 10, the old seats replaced with upholstered ones, sound systems changed into digital and THX, hallways widened and repainted with a sunburst of colors. And soon, a high-tech central ticketing area will be put up and giant monitors for picking up seat numbers installed.

EXPERIENCE the exciting and make-believe world of movies at the transformed Movieworld.

Photos by JOHNNY VILLENA

Robinsons ticket reservation and purchase system allows moviegoers to purchase movie tickets, not only through the central ticketing area, but via phone, internet and kiosks.

The entrance to Robinsons Movieworld says it all: "Movie Magic is Back!" When you look down, you notice the floor has changed hue. When you enter the territory, you feel you're inside the make-believe world of movies. The air is cool, the lights dim, the walls painted in subdued colors, neon lights in the shape of moons flash all over. Your mood is completely set for the movie experience. But then the area is still outside of the theaters. Wait till you enter the big folding doors shaped like a giant sunburst from a dream world.

Wide hallways with brick-colored floor welcome you. It's more of a lounge area than a hallway. The screening area is more compact, the sound superb and the screen big. The smell is good and the whole area is clean and comfortable. For the toilets, just look for the neon signs.

Robinsons Movieworld's comeback as a "lifestyle" cinema is a welcome occasion for die-hard movie fans who want nothing less when it comes to watching a film.

Leo Hernandez, general manager, says at the new Robinsons Movieworld, moviegoers will enjoy not only the movies, but the amenities such as clean comfort rooms, snack bars, wide open spaces to lounge, and a passageway for the handicapped, as well. "It's not about movie projectors and sound systems. They're just a part of the 'total package' to entertain moviegoers."

Hernandez says they've invested millions of pesos to rebuild of the place. The money went into the redesign, which was done abroad, and the increase of the number of cinemas. The 10 cinemas vary in size and capacity. The largest can accommodate more than 800 persons, the one-level cinemas built up like an auditorium can seat 500, while the mezzanine cinemas are ideal for special screenings.

The THX cinema is a statement of what a state-of-the art theater should be all about. Inside, you will experience an action movie's explosive scenes down to the last tremble. The other cinemas boast of digital sound system—which also makes you feel like the enemy in the movie you're watching is already behind you.

Premieres, special screenings, art films will also be held in Robinsons Movieworld. "Lifestyle" establishments such as Starbucks, Café Mediterranean, Books N Books, Taters, Gourmet Café, Tortilla Fusion, Dunkin Donuts and KFC will be put up. Snack counters are already located in both ends of the cinema lobby.

For late moviegoers, the see-through elevator is open till 12, the center escalator open till 2 a.m.

"Many have seen and experienced the difference. They thought they were watching a movie abroad," says Hernandez. "This a moviehouse that has a character of its own. And I'm proud of it."

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'MUSIC OF THE MILLENNIUM'

The familiar and the quizzical

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

THERE'S a reason Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" keeps turning up in movie soundtracks, decades after it was first released (by Motown). Ditto with John Lennon's "Imagine," Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up," Paul MCCartney's "Band On The Run," Queen's "We Are The Champions" . . . the list is long.

The hit television series "Ally MCBeal" likewise resurrects old favorites on a weekly basis. The David Kelley production has re-installed Barry White as a disco icon by portraying his "You're My First, My Last, My Everything" as nothing less than personality-altering.

Current radio fare sometimes makes us feel that all the songs there are to be sung were probably written before the '90s. So now there's a multitude of cover versions filling the airwaves and invading the charts worldwide, outside of which we have "music" that is recited, mumbled, squealed, screeched and shouted, and instead of melodies to soothe the savage beast, we listen to sounds that agitate, aggravate, and induce urban rage and/or civil disobedience.

This is not meant to make adversaries out of Dido, Shaggy, Limp Bizkit, and Destiny's Child devotees. Gee, I feel old.

Universal International Music, EMI Records and Virgin Records have jointly issued a double CD to cheer up countless over-40 sentimentalists like me: Music of the Millennium.

GAYE

It has the six numbers mentioned above, plus some others that are easily recognizable. This has to be said, because a handful of entries are not the landmarks one might presume them to be, by their mere inclusion.

Hands down, the standouts worthy of the collection's title are "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Imagine," and "We are the Champions," as previously mentioned; Derek (the young Eric Clapton) and the Dominoes "Layla," Supertarmpp's "The Logical Song," Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry," U2's "With Or Without You," Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Bee Gee's "Stayin' Alive," and Abba's "Dancing Queen."

Second notchers would be Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing," David Bowie's "Let's Dance," Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer," Blondie's "Heart of Glass," and Prince's "Purple Rain."

The rest of the 39-piece set is a quiz to me. You can see from the list so far that the assembly is very eclectic, and let's not even talk about the sequencing. These jarring factors would have been neutralized by a more careful choice of pieces. But see what you can make of this menu:

The Who's "My Generation," Oasis' "Wonderwall," Lenny Kravitz's "Are You Gonna Go My Way," Tina Turner's "The Best," Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer," Elton John's "Candle In The Wind," Simple Minds' "Don't You Forget About Me," Texas' "Say What You Want," Kate Bush's "Wuthering Heights," Massive Attack's "Unfinished Sympathy," Robbie Williams' "Millennium," UB40's "Red Red Wine," Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight," George Michael's "Jesus to a Child," Roxy Music's "Jealous Guy," Beach Boy's "Good Vibrations," Rod Stewart's "Maggie May," Michael Jackson's "Ain't No Sunshine," Diana Ross' "Upside Down," Janet Jackson's "Together Again," and Pet Shop Boys' "West End Girls."

While the celebrity factor is high, title recall in this last batch is bound to be poor. Why not, instead, "Ain't No Mountain High" from Diana Ross, "Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters" from Elton John, "What's Love Got To Do With It" from Tina Turner? The choices are a little too random. Are the rights to some songs of the same artist higher than others? And by the way, there isn't a single entry from the Beatles, or Madonna, or Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, or the Temptations.

Of course the title isn't Most Memorable Music of the Millennium—and indeed how would such a compilation be possible in a double CD set alone? It might have been less ambitious and more plausible to try and put together something like Rock Music of the Millennium, Love Music of the Millennium, or while we're at it, Classical Music of the Millennium.

Clearly, the title is misleading. But if you don't take that seriously, this outing is at least 75 percent entertaining.

TRANSCENDING cultural differences through music. (L-R) Apollo, Nino, Ross and Francis offer their own mix of pop and soul.

604 band not at sixes and sevens about its music

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT'S not about race, or foreign influence on Filipino culture, or losing their Filipino identity.

"It's just about music," according to the three Filipino-Canadians who formed in Canada a band they call 604 (*six-o-four*). The three-piece a capella group, whose members were all born in Canada to Filipino parents, has performed in the United States, Germany and Hong Kong.

"We're considered to be just like anyone else when we're in Canada because it's so multicultural there," said Nino Sazon, 24. "But when we're in Germany, we're seen as Asians from Canada."

In the Philippines, where they recently spent a few weeks, they're seen as "Canadians with Filipino roots."

The group found this a funny predicament. They're confused figuring out how "people want to see us."

All that Sazon, Ross Calixterio and Francis Baguio want is to share their music with people. They are especially proud of having been an a capella group for several years now for this enabled them to develop "a good ear and sound because there's no instrument to hide behind."

They believe that the best thing about performing a capella is that they can do it anytime, anywhere. They classify the 604 sound as a mixture of pop and soul. They said the artists that have influenced them include such artists as BoyzIIMen, Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, Babyface and Brian McKnight, among others.

Fast-paced life

The members originally came from Toronto but it was in Vancouver where everything came together for them as a group. But the trio, along with their manager Apollo Angco, opted to get away from the fast-paced life they lead in Toronto so they could concentrate on their music.

"We decided to move there (Vancouver) after graduating from high school," recalled Baguio, who went to choir school. "We wanted to pursue music more seriously as a career."

Life in Vancouver for them was filled with obstacles, but it also gave them the chance to channel their energy into developing their music and "into maturing into the artists we are today," Baguio added.

Vancouver is also the reason why they called the group 604, which is its area code.

They have performed in events like the 1998 MTV/Billboard Asian Music Conference in Hong Kong, in a series of gigs in Germany, and as the front act of 98 Degrees in their Vancouver concert.

Sazon dreams of performing at the Superbowl at half-time with pop icon Michael Jackson. Calixterio longs for the group to have an HBO special with Joy Enriquez, the Latino pop sensation responsible for the hit song "Tell Me How You Feel." Baguio dreams of the group doing a production number at the Grammy Awards with teen pop princess Britney Spears.

The group is now working on its debut album with Booya Music, a record company based in Hamburg, Germany. "The songs on the album were written by the production team, and we collaborated on the vocal arrangements," explained group manager Angco.

Everything in between

He said the album is a mixture of fast and slow tunes "and everything in between. We know how much Filipinos love ballads, so you can expect some, too."

Asked how it was like performing for the Filipino crowd, Calixterio said Filipinos and Asians in general are more conservative as an audience because "they like to sit back and appreciate the music."

"As for Germans, they're wild but are still appreciative," he said. "We don't prefer anyone over the other. It's always good to get a good mix of both."

It was during their Germany tour that they had their most embarrassing experience. It happened when they decided to go swimming in the hotel pool.

Baguio was still trying to learn how to swim well at that time so the two others resolved to help him. He started to panic when he began to swim toward the deep end of the pool.

"He grabbed onto us to keep himself up," Sazon said. "So all of us were pretty much drowning together."

The three eventually made it out of the pool but "the hotel restaurant was overlooking the pool and everyone who was eating dinner got to see an amusing and different kind of 604 show."

They found their stay in the Philippines very enjoyable. People who appreciate their music can be assured of more from the group. "We'll be here as long as there are opportunities for us," Angco said.

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Aga on Charlene: This is the life I've been dreaming of

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AGA Muhlach says he now has a normal life after marrying beauty queen-actress **Charlene Gonzales.** Gone are the days when he would stay up late at night, hopping from one bar to another or simply hanging out with friends until the wee hours.

"Believe it or not but now, I sleep at 10 p.m.," Aga tells us. "When Charlene goes to bed, I make it a point to also sleep. At 5:30 a.m., *gising na ko*. I can even play golf regularly now, unlike before, because I couldn't wake up early."

Aga says his Ayala Alabang house has become very different since Charlene joined him.

"*Ang saya sa bahay ko ngayon* because Charlene is there. We can spend the whole day together at home *at masaya na kami*. We don't have to do anything special. We don't have to go anywhere else."

No wonder the once eligible bachelor has been scarce in the popular night haunts he used to frequent.

"Before, I would always look for something to do outside the house aside from work," Aga says. "But now, I prefer to stay home.

"Charlene and I are always both anxious about her pregnancy and the coming of our twins. The babies keep moving inside her womb. I always go with her to the doctor. I think I'm more excited than she."

Strangely enough, it's also Aga who appears to be infanticipating.

"Charlene had morning sickness only in the first two months of her pregnancy, even before we got married," he says. "But now, *wala na*. Her stomach got big after we came back from the States for our honeymoon. So now it's really showing, more than during our wedding."

Charlene cooks for Aga who eats anything she prepares for him.

"I'm the one who's craving," he says. "*Kung matakaw ako noon, mas matakaw ako ngayon. Nadadaan lang sa* golf and a little workout every day, that's why I probably don't gain weight."

He says this is the life he has been dreaming of.

"I've dreamt about this for 31 years," he says. "Having my own family is really one of my greatest desires."

Even as he takes care of his pregnant wife, Aga will be busy promoting his latest movie, "Pangako, Ikaw Lang," which marks his screen reunion with **Regine Velasquez.**

MUHLACH. A normal life, finally.

They were earlier paired in the box-office hit, "Dahil May Isang Ikaw," shown two years ago.

At the helm of "Pangako, Ikaw Lang" is **Joyce Bernal**, who also directed Aga and Regine in their first team-up.

Aga's only complaint about the movie is that Viva Films didn't allow him to record for the soundtrack.

"All the other members of the cast got their chance to record a song except me," he says with a smile.

Fined for tardiness

REGINE put one over her second-time costar during the filming of their new movie. In order to keep Aga from coming in late for their shooting, which he often did the first time they worked together, Regine forced him to make a bet.

For every hour that Aga would report late to the set, he would be fined P5,000, while Regine would give P2,500.

"Thankfully, *hindi naman niya pinainit ang ulo ko* this time," Regine says of her leading man. "He was late only twice. I was late once, so I paid P2,500."

On the final shooting day, Regine and Aga decided to raffle off the money to the Viva Films production staff and crew who worked on "Pangako, Ikaw Lang."

Public service, not politics

SOME people do public service out of sheer goodwill. Others have a public service show on TV so they can reach out to more people. For still others, it's in preparation for a political career.

For Lt. Col. **Carlyzar Divinagracia**, hosting the public service program "Sandigan" means being able to address the needs and complaints of as many people as possible.

"Sandigan" is produced by Air Material Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AMWSLAI), where Divinagracia is the executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"AMWSLAI has been into armed forces and community service for 45 years now," Divinagracia informs. "Through the years, more than 200,000 members have availed themselves of our services, including financial aid."

Divinagracia started hosting "Sandigan" more than a year ago over dwIZ-AM 882. The program later moved to dzXL (now RMN News Manila 558 khz). Late last year, AMWSLAI thought of bringing the program to TV and aired it on Channel 11.

Now on its third season, "Sandigan" moved this week to its new home on IBC 13 where it airs every Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

"'Sandigan' has evolved," Divinagracia says. "From radio, we brought it to TV and now, as we air on IBC 13, we can reach a wider audience.

"Sandigan" also serves as a forum where issues are discussed by top government officials, political leaders or officers of other sectors of society.

"But it's not hard-hitting, even if we discuss serious and critical issues and do probing interviews," Divinagracia points out. "We don't have shouting matches or heated debates on our show."

The program also recognizes individuals with outstanding accomplishments, as well as institutions, associations or organizations that can be of service to the community.

"We want to show the people there are success stories and day-to-day excellence in public service," says Divinagracia. "We want to prove that the government's social system works, like there are firemen who really put out fire even if you don't give them money."

"Sandigan" aims to inform soldiers, policemen, teachers and employees from the private and public sectors about livelihood opportunities being offered by successful entrepreneurs, institutions and associations.

"Sandigan" has invited noted politicians and government officials, including Senators **Loren Legarda, Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Nene Pimentel** and **Rodolfo Biazon**, Justice Secretary **Hernani Perez**, Tourism Secretary **Dick Gordon** and Gen. **Reynaldo Wycoco.**

Divinagracia, however, denies that "Sandigan" is in preparation for a political career for him.

"I get fulfillment when we can reach out to a lot of people and make them aware of AMWSLAI," he says. "Politics is simply not part of our agenda."

"SANDIGAN" host Lt. Col. Carlyzar Divinagracia interviews Sen. Juan Flavier.

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Good Night Ladies	TONE GOODNGHT
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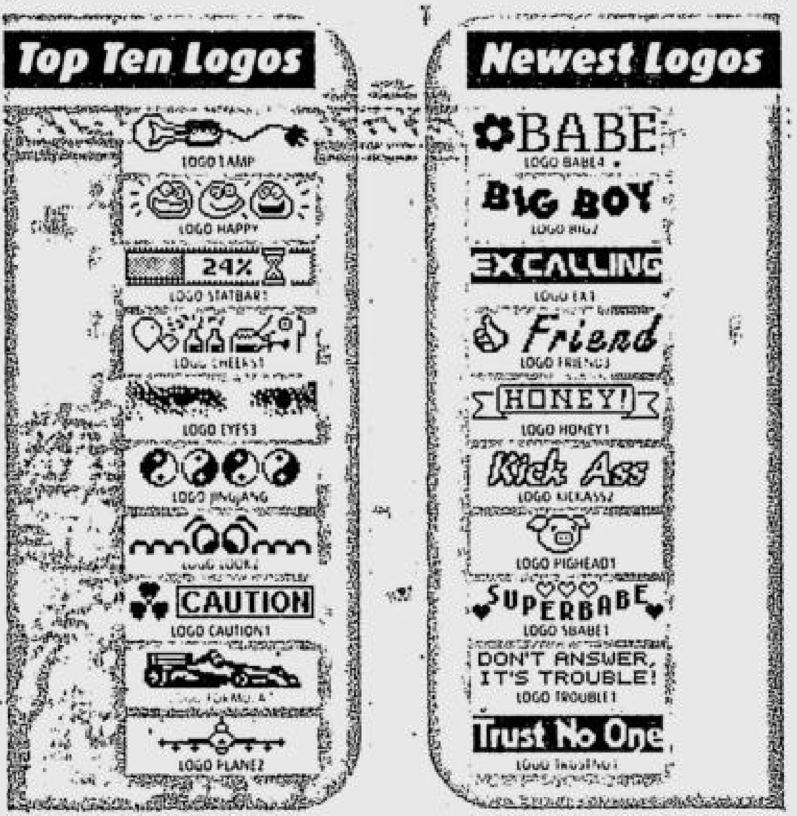

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hello boys
PIC HELLOBOYS1
PIC HMM
JUICY
PIC JUICY1
Naughty but Nice
PIC NAUGHTY1
PIC FOOTBOL
NUTCASE
PIC PANDAS1
Rude Boy
PIC RBOY1
PIC SMALLCAR1
PIC SOVIET1
U touch, U die!
PIC UTOUCH1

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SM CITY BACOOR 4173868
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2 PEARL HARBOR
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 TOMB RAIDER
6 MILA
7 EVOLUTION
8 BUHAY KAMAO

SM CENTERPOINT 7140522-7180418
1 MILA
2 HEAD OVER HEELS
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 LUV TEXT
5 TOMB RAIDER
6 BUHAY KAMAO
7 EVOLUTION
8 PEARL HARBOR
9 ACCIDENTAL SPY
10 MILA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9330240
1 BUHAY KAMAO
2 HEAD OVER HEELS
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 TOMB RAIDER
5 MILA
6 LUV TEXT
7 TOMB RAIDER
8 MILA
9 EVOLUTION
10 PEARL HARBOR
11 DR. T & THE WOMEN
12 APOY SA KARAGATAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 EVOLUTION
5 HEAD OVER HEELS
6 TOMB RAIDER
7 MILA
8 GET OVER IT
9 TOMB RAIDER
10 BUHAY KAMAO
11 LUV TEXT
12 MILA

SM MEGAMALL 6331001 • 6329401
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 EVOLUTION
5 MUMMY RETURNS
6 DR. T & THE WOMEN
7 ANTS IN THE PANTS
8 HEAD OVER HEELS
9 MILA
10 TOMB RAIDER
11 ACCIDENTAL SPY
12 THE REPLICANT

SM TUTUBAN 2514302
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 LUV TEXT
3 MILA
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY

DIGITAL dts SOUND · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 LUV TEXT
3 MILA
4 APOY SA KARAGATAN
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY
6 PEARL HARBOR
7 EVOLUTION
8 TOMB RAIDER
9 DR. T & THE WOMEN
10 MILA
11 HEAD OVER HEELS
12 BUHAY KAMAO

SM SOUTHMALL 8066008 • 8066102
1 APOY SA KARAGATAN
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 KASIBULAN
6 BUHAY KAMAO
7 MILA
8 TOMB RAIDER
9 EVOLUTION
10 LUV TEXT

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8829905
1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 MILA
3 TOMB RAIDER

SM CEBU 2313878
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 THE REPLICANT
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 MAGENTA
5 LUV TEXT
6 MILA
7 PEARL HARBOR

SM ILOILO 3209422
1 LUV TEXT
2 CLOSED
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 MILA
6 PEARL HARBOR
7 CLOSED
8 THE REPLICANT

SM PAMPANGA 7120015
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 EVOLUTION
3 HEAD OVER HEELS
4 KASIBULAN
5 PEARL HARBOR
6 MILA

SM SUCAT 8294015
1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 MILA
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 EVOLUTION

SM DAVAO
1
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3
4
5
6
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1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 TOMB RAIDER

GLORIETTA 4
1 EVOLUTION In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 TOMB RAIDER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 TOMB RAIDER THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 HEAD OVER HEELS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 PEARL HARBOR In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 TOMB RAIDER In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 ACCIDENTAL SPY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 MILA In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 TOMB RAIDER In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 EVOLUTION In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 29 & 30 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TOMB RAIDER THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 EVOLUTION In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 TOMB RAIDER In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 PEARL HARBOR In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 MILA In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) TOMB RAIDER
2 (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
3 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 GOLD (DTS) HEAD OVER HEELS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
6 GOLD (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
8 [illegible] MILA
9 [illegible] LUV TEXT
10 [illegible] MILA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 MILA
2 LUV TEXT
3 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 KASIBULAN
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
2 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 MILA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 EVOLUTION
2 MILA
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TOMB RAIDER
5 APOY SA KARAGATAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 MILA
4 LUV TEXT
5 KASIBULAN
6 TOMB RAIDER
7 ACCIDENTAL SPY
8 APOY SA KARAGATAN

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349
1 TOMB RAIDER

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BUHAY KAMAO
2 PEARL HARBOR

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 MILA
3 KASIBULAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 MILA
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 MILA
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 APOY SA KARAGATAN
5 EVOLUTION
6 MILA
7 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER
8 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
9 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 TOMB RAIDER

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 MILA
2 LUV TEXT
3 APOY SA KARAGATAN
4 (SDDS) EVOLUTION
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY
6 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
7 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER
8 KASIBULAN
9 BUHAY KAMAO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER
2 MILA
3 APOY SA KARAGATAN
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 (SDDS) EVOLUTION
6 LUV TEXT
7 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
8 KASIBULAN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 APOY SA KARAGATAN
3 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 MILA
5 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 TOMB RAIDER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 MILA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson AN DECENT BEHAVIOR
Lords APOY SA KARAGATN
Jannet MILA

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TOMB RAIDER
2 MILA
3 APOY SA KARAGATAN
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
2 MILA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 APOY SA KARAGATAN
4 MILA
5 LUV TEXT

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 MILA
2 APOY SA KARAGATAN
3 KASIBULAN
4 LUV TEXT
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY
6 TOMB RAIDER

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 APOY SA KARAGATAN
4
5

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 MILA
2 KASIBULAN
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MILA
2 (DTS) THE REPLICANT
3 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
4 KASIBULAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 KASIBULAN
3 MILA
4 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MILA
2 LUV TEXT
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER
4 KASIBULAN
5 THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 PEARL HARBOR
2 MILA
3 BUHAY KAMAO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 THE REPLICANT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) MILA
2 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 MILA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KASIBULAN
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 MILA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LUV TEXT
2 KASIBULAN
3 MILA
4 THE REPLICANT

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 MILA
2 TOMB RAIDER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 KASIBULAN
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 MILA
4 TOMB RAIDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) TOMB RAIDER
2 MILA
3 HEAD OVER HEELS
4 (DTS EX) EVOLUTION

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☆ MILA
☆ TOMB RAIDER
☆ EVOLUTION

GALLERIA 632-9115-16
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☆ TOMB RAIDER
☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
☆ EVOLUTION
☆ PEARL HARBOR
☆ THE MUMMY RETURNS
☆ MILA
☆ GET OVER IT
☆ TOMB RAIDER

IMUS (046) 471-8188
☆ TOMB RAIDER
☆ TOMB RAIDER
☆ MILA
☆ EVOLUTION
☆ PEARL HARBOR
☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY

BACOLOD (034) 441-0455
☆ THE REPLICANT
☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
☆ BUHAY KAMAO
☆ PEARL HARBOR
☆ POSSESSED
☆ KAMASUTRA

DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT / SPLENDOR
ODEON	TOMB RAIDER
ODEON-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ROBEN	MILA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	3 000 MILES ' WHAT WOMEN WANTS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	APOY SA KARAGATAN
QUEZON-1	TOMB RAIDER
REMAR	MILA
REMAR-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-14	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-15	MILA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-2	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-3	MILA CABANGON
CINEMA-4	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-5	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	TOMB RAIDER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-4	BLONDIE - 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
CINEMA-4	HIYAS

Miriam, Paolo pose as models

MIRIAM Quiambao and Paolo Bediones, hosts of of GMA 7's "Extra! Extra!" will pose as models for portrait painters today at Padi's Mindave, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

The painting session will be conducted by nine award-winning artists of the Ikalawang Palapag group—Jasper de Leon, Raul Delfin III, Norman Dreo, Eric Quay Evano, Juan Sajid Imao, Dayong Mendoza, John Paul Olivares, Omar Sebastian and Kris Soguillon.

The group regularly holds nude sketching sessions every Wednesday at the second level of Padi's Mindave.

Ikalawang Palapag has an ongoing painting exhibit, "Unang Hakbang," at the Mindave Gallery.

Padi's Mindave is a unique restaurant, bar, art gallery and entertainment center owned by Wilson Lee Flores.

The Ikalawang Palapag Group and Faber Castell will also conduct children's art workshops on selected Sunday afternoons at Padi's Mindave.

For registration or inquiries, call 453-0080 or 414-4930.

Dancers at KTV

THE ELECTRIFYING Sex Bomb Dancers will perform again tonight at Classmate Digital KTV.

Get dazzled with the renowned dance group as they perform highly charged dance numbers especially choreographed for the show.

Tagged as the newest party place in town, Classmate Digital KTV has 40 rooms equipped with the latest digital karaoke and PABX telephone system.

For utmost convenience, every room has its own restroom.

For more information, call 373-1080 or visit Classmate Digital KTV at 1012 Quezon Avenue, QC.

Exciting . . .

(From page A27)

every Wednesday on Studio 23 at 9 p.m.).

They were chosen from a field of about 170 auditionees to replace **Paolo Abrera** and **Suzi Entrata**, who have gotten married and moved on to better things.

The audition consisted of conducting mock interviews, doing spiels and voice-overs, and imitating a famous person engaged in a particular sport.

That last requirement needed a lot of quick thinking and a knack for improvisation, which the new hosts must have in heaps if they want to keep up with the fast-paced show!

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change The Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

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Lara Croft:
TOMB RAIDER
Action - Adventure
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Starring:
Angelina Jolie
Jon Voight
Daniel Craig
Lain Glen

June 27 - Wednesday
3:40 PM - Tomb Raider
6:00 PM - Tomb Raider
8:20 PM - Tomb Raider
10:40 PM - Tomb Raider

Watch John Travolta, Hugh Jackman & Halle Berry log on, hack in, go anywhere and steal everything in SWORDFISH. Opens July 4. Get amazed, marvel at the THX technology in this super sound-intensive movie. Only at Louie's THX. Don't dare miss it!

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Exciting home videos needed for new adventure series

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel is calling for submissions to "Up For It," a new global adventure series featuring home videos shot by viewers from all over the world. If you have an exciting home video, why not send it in? The "Up For It" adventure series is looking for the best footage from thrill seekers, eco-explorers and people who live on the edge who have captured their adventures on digital home video.

Videographers, both professional and amateur, are encouraged to submit digital videos showcasing their most daring and exhilarating experiences. Some of the videos submitted thus far are on kayaking down the Amazon and riding camels across the Sahara Desert.

Applicants whose videos are selected will have their adventures seen by viewers in Asia when National Geographic Channel Asia premieres "Up For It" in early 2002, reaching over 30 million 24-hour homes and over 50 million day-part homes.

Individuals whose work is selected will get $200 for every minute of footage broadcast. More details and an official entry form are online at www.ngcasia.com. The deadline for Asia submissions is this July 31.

Big star value

MEANWHILE, on Star Movies next month, there's big star value as some of Hollywood's major luminaries topbill a number of special action-adventure screenings:

Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Total Recall" and "End of Days." **Leonardo DiCaprio** in "The Beach." **Anthony Hopkins** and **Cuba Gooding Jr.** in "Instinct." **Gene Hackman** and **Will Smith** in "Enemy of the State." **Pierce Brosnan** in "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Plus: "Entrapment," "The Hi-Lo Country" and "The Mod Squad." And Sylvester Stallone in three of his popular starrers – "First Blood," "Rambo II" and "Rambo III."

Another war movie for Josh Hartnett

NOW that "Pearl Harbor" is a big hit, its new star, **Josh Hartnett**, is flying high and is being hailed as one of the current film season's brightest finds.

Hartnett is pleased as punch, of course, but he's secretly blushing because there was a time when he was going to turn down his plum role in "Pearl Harbor."

Was he out of his mind? No, Hartnett demurs, he felt it was a case of too much, too soon, and he was wary of all the attention he would get after the war epic opened its run.

It's a good thing that he was able to get over such insecurities, and focused instead on giving his star-making role everything he had!

Hartnett is now flooded with offers, but has chosen another war movie for his follow-up project. For his work in "Pearl Harbor," he was paid a relative pittance, but he's getting $2M for his new movie. Ah, the cool perks of screen stardom!

New 'Gameplan' hosts

STUDIO 23 VJ **Tricia Chiongbian**, **Akiko Thompson**, **Carlo Ledesma** and **Rovilson Fernandez** are the new hosts of the popular sports magazine show, GamePlan" (telecast

EXCITING/ A26

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

ACCIDENTAL SPY - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TOMB RAIDER - P 13 10:55, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	MILA CABANGON - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
EVOLUTION - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00	TOMB RAIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

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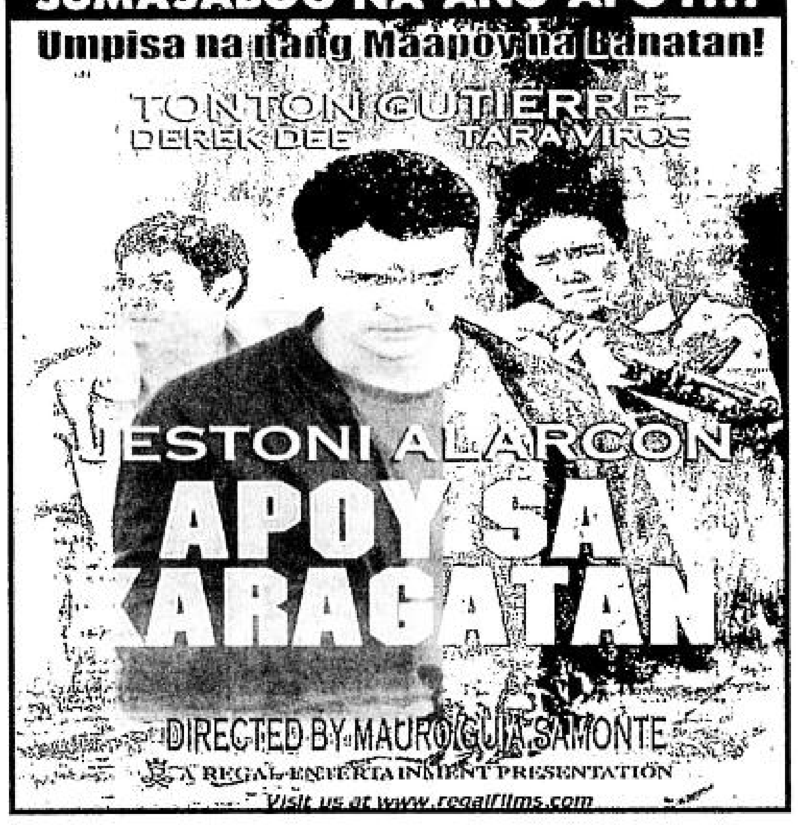
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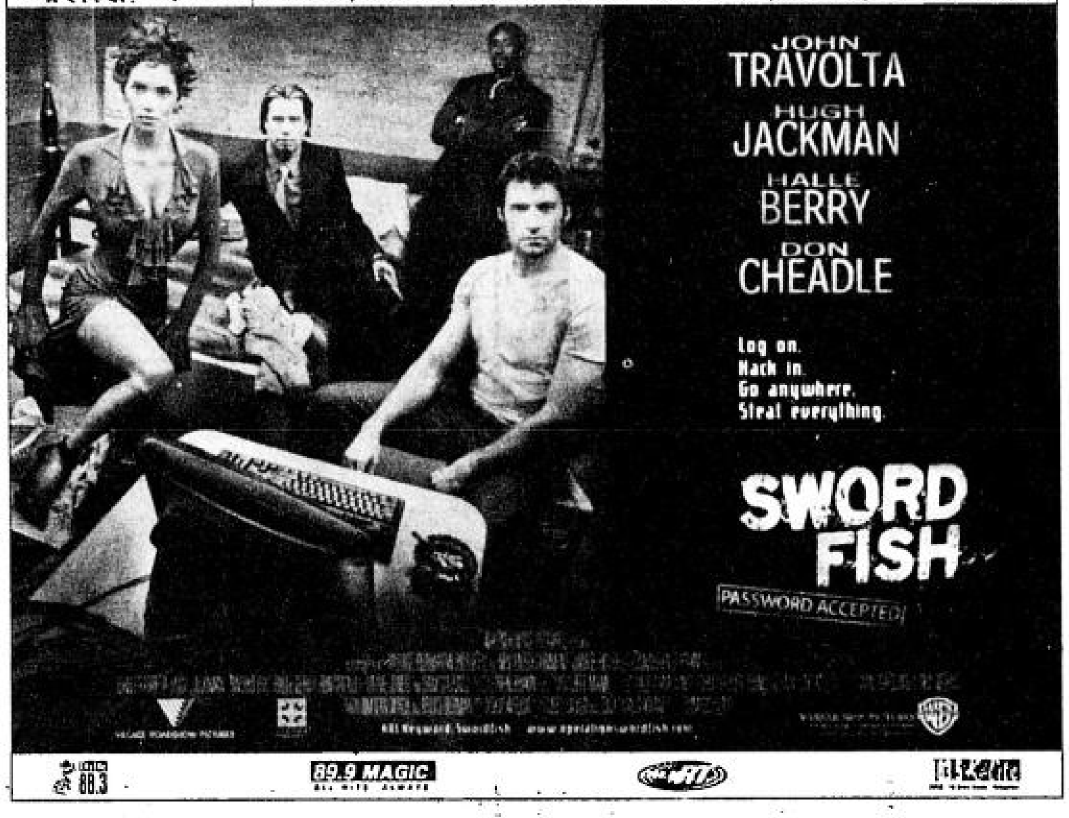
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MTRCB Rating PG-13

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dressed in *Lara Croft outfit*
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AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 4 & ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Promo is valid on
June 29, 30; July 6, 7
8pm-12 Midnight Screening only

LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
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Have a nice end of the world.
EVOLUTION
www.countingdown.com/evolution
DreamWorks Pictures

Hip, MiB-style alien comedy fun, hi-tech special fx in EVOLUTION

In the tradition of MEN IN BLACK comes another funny, hip and special-effects-packed sci-fi comedy misadventure -- Columbia Pictures' EVOLUTION.

When a meteor crashes Earth carrying alien life forms, all hell wackily breaks loose.

David Duchovny (FBI Agent Mulder in X-FILES), Orlando Jones (BEDAZZLED), Seann William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) and two-time Oscar nominee Julianne Moore (HANNIBAL) star as the only people standing between the aliens and world domination.

A team of visual effects wizards, led by Phil Tippett, worked with director Ivan Reitman (GHOSTBUSTERS) to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered. Tippett created the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK and the giant alien insects in STARSHIP TROOPERS.

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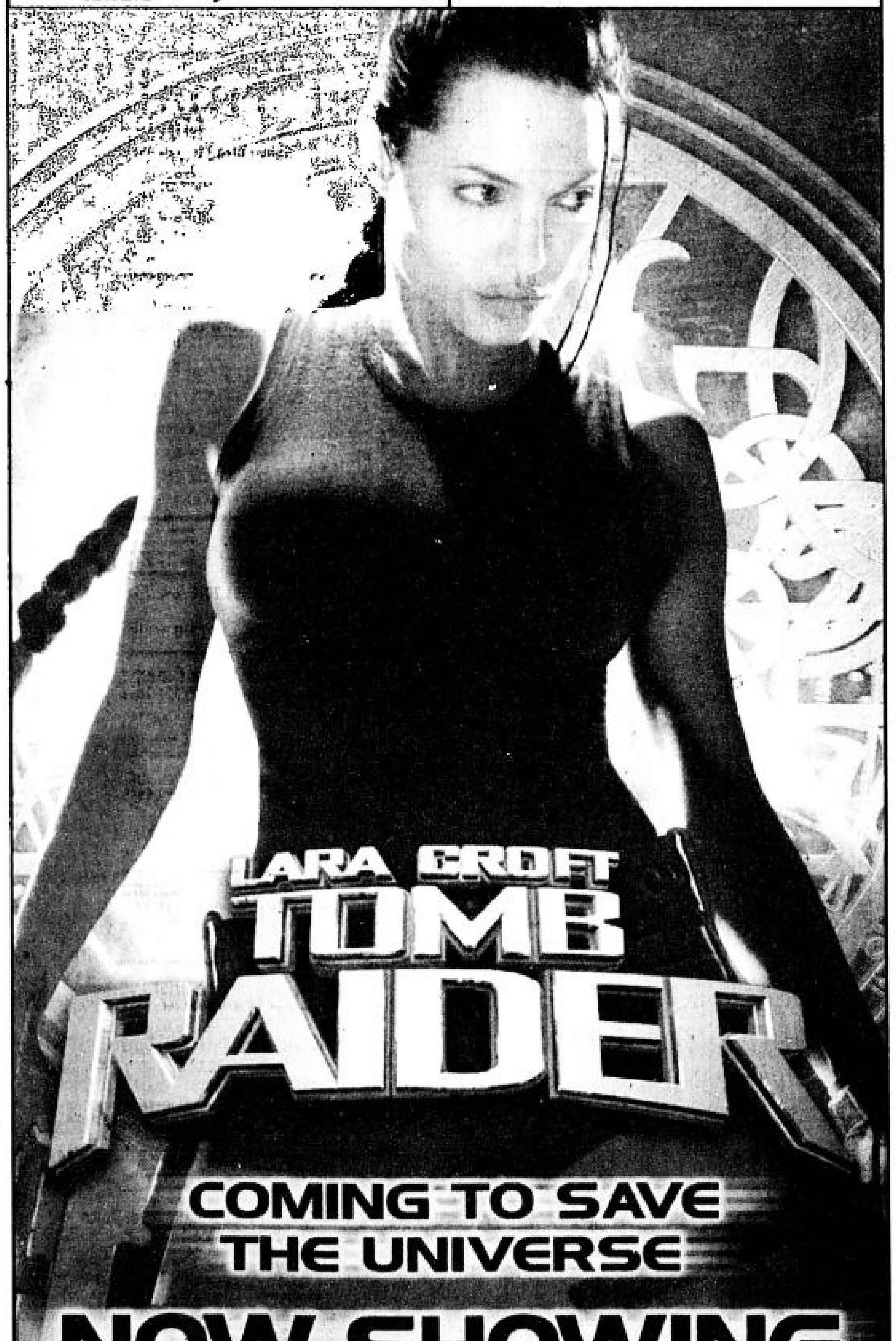
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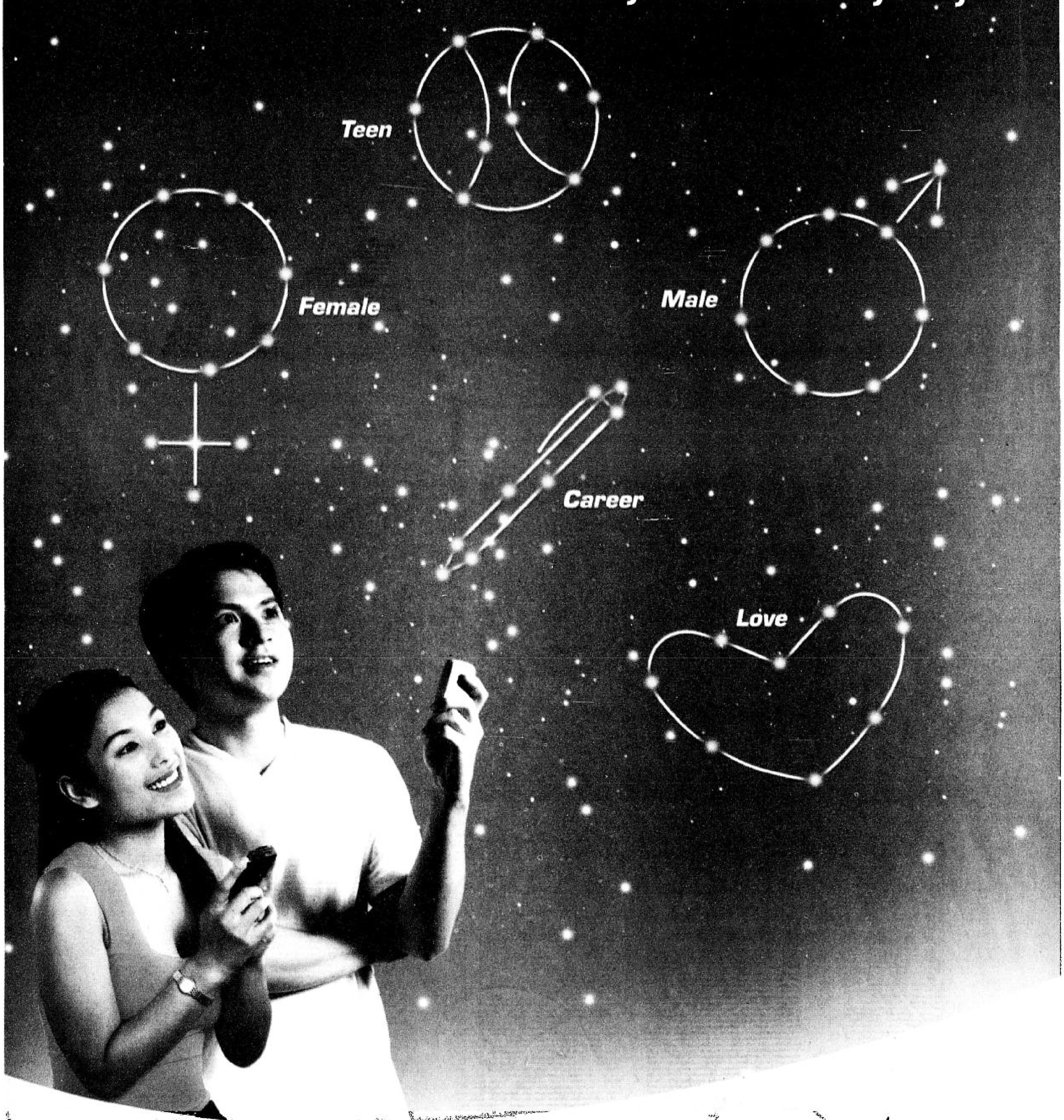
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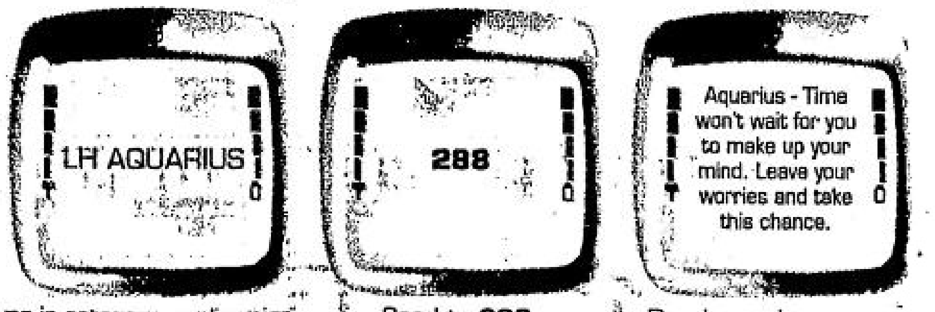
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B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Bank loans rose 6.2% in April

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

REFLECTING a surge in loans to the manufacturing sector, the loan portfolio of the country's 45 operating commercial banks grew by 6.2 percent in April to P1.45 trillion from the previous month's expansion of 5.5 percent.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that bank lending to the manufacturing sector improved by 10.5 percent in April from 8.3 percent a month ago.

It was the first time for credit to the country's manufacturers to grow at a double-digit level since October last year when loans to this sector rose by 14.9 percent.

The Bangko Sentral noted that loan growth in April was also higher compared to a 5.1-percent rise in credits in the same period last year.

A Bangko Sentral official said monetary authorities hoped that the credit growth in April could be sustained in the succeeding months given the continued decline in interest rates.

A rise in credit usually leads to an improved economy as individuals and companies use the money to expand business activities or simply for consumer spending.

The central bank was projecting a 10-percent improvement in credit this year from a 7-percent growth in bank lending last year.

The Bangko Sentral said bank lending to utilities such as electricity, water and gas also accelerated by 35.6 percent in April.

In terms of share to total loans, the manufacturing sector continued to account for the biggest chunk of the banking system's loanable funds equivalent to 28.2 percent, which was slightly higher than the previous month's 27.8 percent.

Another BSP official welcomed the rise in the share and the growth of manufacturing credit. He said the sector reflected the biggest slowdown in loan growth since the "Juetengate" scandal erupted last October.

In November last year, credit growth to the manufacturing sector dropped by 4.9 percent, and by another 5.7 percent the next month.

After the controversy that involved former President Estrada, growth in credit, particularly to the manufacturing sector, almost stood still until last month.

The cluster of financial institutions, real estate, and business services cornered 25.8 percent of the banks' loanable funds in April followed by the wholesale and retail trade sector, which accounted for 14.1 percent.

The April data, the Bangko Sentral said, could be indicating a gradual reversal in trends from the previous months when much of the banks' credits went to the public sector.

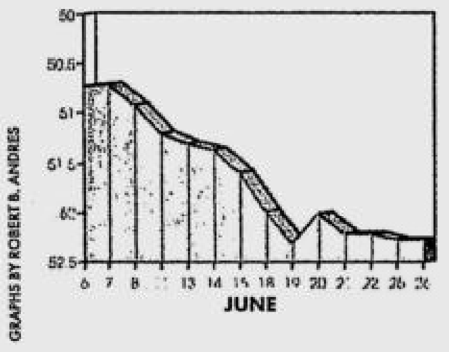
In April, money supply in the economy as measured by domestic liquidity significantly increased by 13.1 percent in April from 10.5 percent in March.

While net domestic credits, a record of all borrowings in the local system, mostly went to the public sector, the share of the private sector has increased to 7.8 percent from 7.2 percent a month ago.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

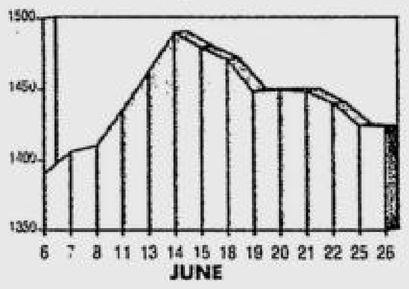
₱52.27 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2001

¥123.47 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.47 as of 5 p.m., June 26, 2001

GOLD:$274.00/274.50
per ounce Hong Kong, June 26, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end down

STOCKS ended slightly lower yesterday as investors continued to trim positions amid a lack of positive news to spur buying activity, traders said.

Continued anxiety over the anemic economy and the law and order situation, including the threat of a destabilization plot against the government, weighed on sentiment, they said.

With no solid buying cues, investors continued to engage in speculative trade in many lower liners, driven by talk of acquisitions.

"It's a rumor mongers market . . . people are just creating stories," KGI Securities Inc. trader Frank Araneta said.

The main composite index finished off 1.08 points, or 0.08 percent, at 1,423.44. It has fallen 1.7 percent since the first trading day of the year.

Turnover reached P520.73 million from P344.48 million on Monday.

Araneta expected the market to trade sideways in a narrow range today in the absence of fresh leads, with the main index support seen at 1,400 points and near term resistance at 1,460.

Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines president Efren Cruz said he has seen a pattern of light accumulation by foreigners over the past few months and it was possible this would continue going forward as they collected stocks seen as undervalued but having good earnings prospects. *Reuters*

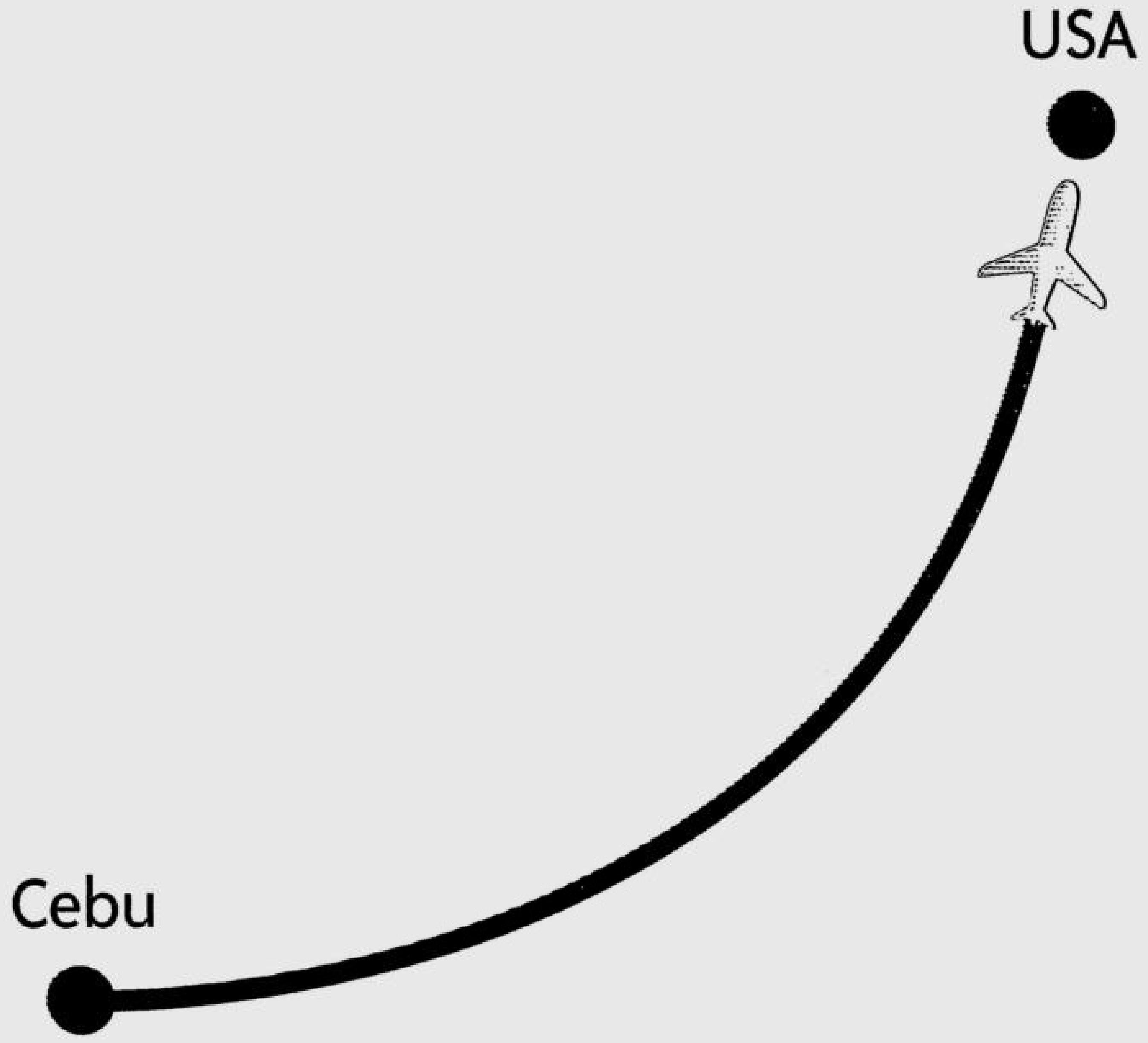
UCPB Securities tops list

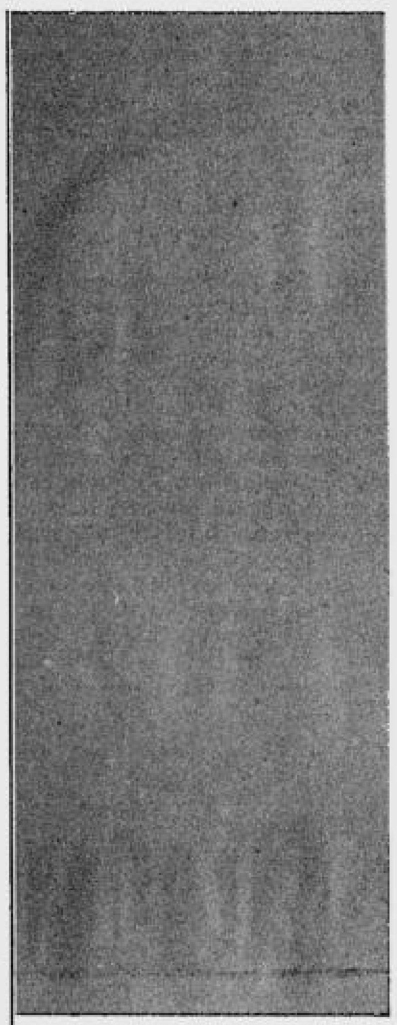
UCPB Securities, a wholly owned subsidiary of UCPB, topped all local stock brokerage houses in market value turnover in the first five months of 2001.

Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) data showed that UCPB Securities posted an aggregate value turnover of P7.03 billion or 4.45 percent of the market's total from January to May of this year. This is highest by any local stock brokerage house during the period.

UCPB Securities performance made it the seventh most active stock brokerage house among the 184 operating in the Philippines. Only two local brokers made it to PSE's top 10 list as of May 2001. The other was BPI Securities, which ranked 10th.

The rest on the top 10 list were all foreign-owned brokerage houses led by Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., Jardine Fleming Exchange Capital Securities Inc., ABN Amro Asia Securities, ING Barings, Regis Partners Inc., UBS Warburg Securities, CLSA Philippines Inc., and HSBC Securities Philippines Inc.





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50% duty on fructose sought

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL sugar millers have urged the government to raise from 5 percent to 50 percent the tariff on imported fructose used by certain industries, particularly soft drink and candy manufacturers, as substitutes to locally produced sugar.

The Philippine Sugar Millers Association claimed that the entry of imported fructose into the country at a very low tariff posed unfair competition to local sugar producers and was detrimental to the growth of the local sugar industry.

PSMA executive director Jose Maria T. Zabaleta said in an interview yesterday that fructose should be included in the country's final list of sensitive agricultural commodities to be presented in the forthcoming Asean Free Trade Area ministerial meeting. Products in the sensitive list are exempted in Afta's tariff reduction program.

Sugar was classified as a highly sensitive product under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme of the Afta. This suspended the inclusion of the commodity in the list of products whose tariffs will be reduced to a range of 0 to 5 percent by year 2003. Instead, the tariff on sugar, which presently stands at 65 percent, will be reduced to the 0 to 5 percent level only by 2010 to give the local industry enough time to enhance its competitiveness.

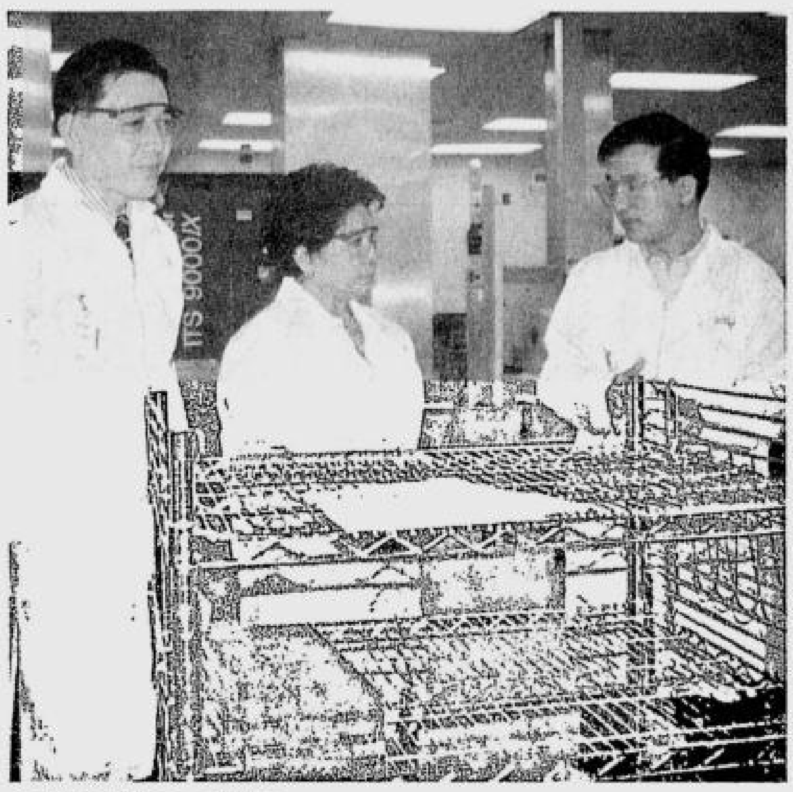
Although the tariff on sugar remains relatively high, that on fructose or sugar substitutes remained at 5 percent which the industry deemed unfair.

The Tariff Commission, for its part, said it would review for possible adjustments the tariffs on sensitive agricultural products, including sugar, rice, corn, live swine and poultry.

Tariff Commission Chair Edgardo Abon said that agricultural products were the only remaining commodities that were not subject to specific tariff reduction schedule under both the CEPT and the World Trade Organization's tariff reduction program.

Abon said the commission would conduct public hearings to determine the tariff reduction schedule for these products.

In the meantime, the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters agreed last week to maintain the tariffs on petrochemicals and automotive parts at current levels up to 2004 while other industries will keep their present duties only up to next year.



INTEL PHILS. CITED

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) commended Intel Philippines for its continued confidence in the Philippines, its high-quality products and its world-class Filipino workers. During a recent plant tour of Intel's plant in General Trias, Cavite, Peza vice chair and director general Lilia B. de Lima said Intel made the Philippines proud because its microprocessor products, which are widely used for desktop and mobile computers throughout the world, are assembled and tested by Intel Filipino employees. With De Lima (center) during the tour are Intel's Robin Martin (left) and William So (right).

Subic-Clark alliance to spur CL growth

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The memorandum of understanding adopting the Subic Clark Alliance for Development (Scad) as a "unified government mega-project" is expected to jumpstart the development of the country's first "intermodal transpark" and a world-class port facility.

Scad is a unified action program intended to link together the strategic assets of two former United States military bases, the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

Subic, on one hand, has a limited flatland for further infrastructure development but it has an intact ecosystem, it is centrally located in the Asia-Pacific region and its most important economic infrastructure is its natural deep harbor and port facilities.

Clark, on the other hand, has vast flatlands for industries and an international airport that has two parallel runways capable of handling 15-20 million passengers a year.

"Link these assets together via the toll road project and we have the most effective logistics and transportation network that would not only help decongest Metro Manila, but in the long run, would evolve into a global intermodal transpark," said Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo.

Payumo identified the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road and the container terminal project under the Subic Port Development Plan as "cornerstone infrastructure projects" that would usher in the "balance of development north and south of Metro Manila," with Central Luzon as the pivotal point.

Financing for both projects will be drawn from the 34.723 billion yen special loan package known as the Obuchi Fund, which will bankroll various development projects in the country.

The Japanese government has approved a P16.571-billion loan for the toll road and a P6.8-billion loan for the construction of the new container terminal near the Subic Bay International Airport.

Payumo said more than just the physical linkage, the 92-kilometer toll road project, also known as the "Rainbow Highway," would "plant the seed for a mega-metropolis encompassing other urban growth centers in Northern and Central Luzon."

"We would be the only industrial zones connected by a four-lane highway doorstep to doorstep, giving businesses in Luzon access to both zones' facilities and the agility needed to get their goods and services to the marketplace," Payumo said.

A priority project of the Macapagal administration, the toll road would cut down travel time between Clark and Subic from two hours to 30 minutes and provide Luzon-based exporters direct access to Subic's port facilities.

The transpark, Payumo said, is expected to serve other growth areas included in the Central Luzon "W corridor" such as the Bataan Export Processing Zone, the Limay Petrochemical cluster, the Luisita Industrial Park, the Angeles Industrial Park, the San Fernando furniture industry, Basa Air Base and the Hermosa Economic Zone.

He said unlike Metro Manila and Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon industrial area) which were developed in "piecemeal fashion," the Subic-Clark corridor would be "thoughtfully master planned."

It will most likely be modeled after the Alliance Center, a global intermodal transpark in Fortworth, Texas, developed by Hillwood Development of former US presidential candidate Ross Perot.

The Subic-Clark segment of the toll road is expected to be completed by 2003. It will complement the main development thrust of the SBMA under its 2001-2005 strategic development plan, which is to turn Subic into a major transshipment hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

Gov't keeps deficit cap at ₱145B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to maintain at P145 billion its budget deficit ceiling for this year despite huge revenue shortfalls due to slower economic growth this year, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

Canlas told reporters during the National Conference Prosperity Building for the poor that despite the overshooting of the budget deficit last May, the government could still contain the deficit within the ceiling this year.

"Every time the gross domestic product (GDP) growth target is scaled down, there's always an expected reduction in tax collection. However, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has lined up several administrative measures that will offset the decline in its tax collection for the year so there is no need to revise the deficit ceiling," Canlas said.

The government earlier scaled down its GDP target for this year to a range of 3.3-3.8 percent from 3.8-4.3 percent amid the slump in the industrial sector, particularly electronics which was badly hit by the slowdown in the economies of the United States and Japan.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given year less the net factor income from overseas.

"The new (tax) measures include the institutionalization of the documentary stamp tax (DST) metering which will be implemented in the second half of the year," Canlas said.

He said the DST metering was expected to generate for the national coffers at least P5 billion this year. On top of this, he said the government would reactivate its large taxpayers unit to improve revenue collection from the country's biggest corporate taxpayers.

In May, the government incurred a budget deficit of P30.25 billion, overshooting the P23.49-billion ceiling for the month by almost P7 billion. The cumulative deficit from January to May, however, stood at P58.33 billion which was still within the P61.7-billion ceiling for the five-month period.

Canlas also said the ongoing review with the International Monetary Fund would likely focus on the government's fiscal performance.

In a conference on Monday, Canlas pointed out that the administration's fiscal policy was based on a gradual budget-deficit reduction program targeting a balance in the national government budget by 2006. The need to curb the gap has prompted the administration to stop the pump priming measures anchored on a deficit-spending strategy implemented by the Estrada administration.

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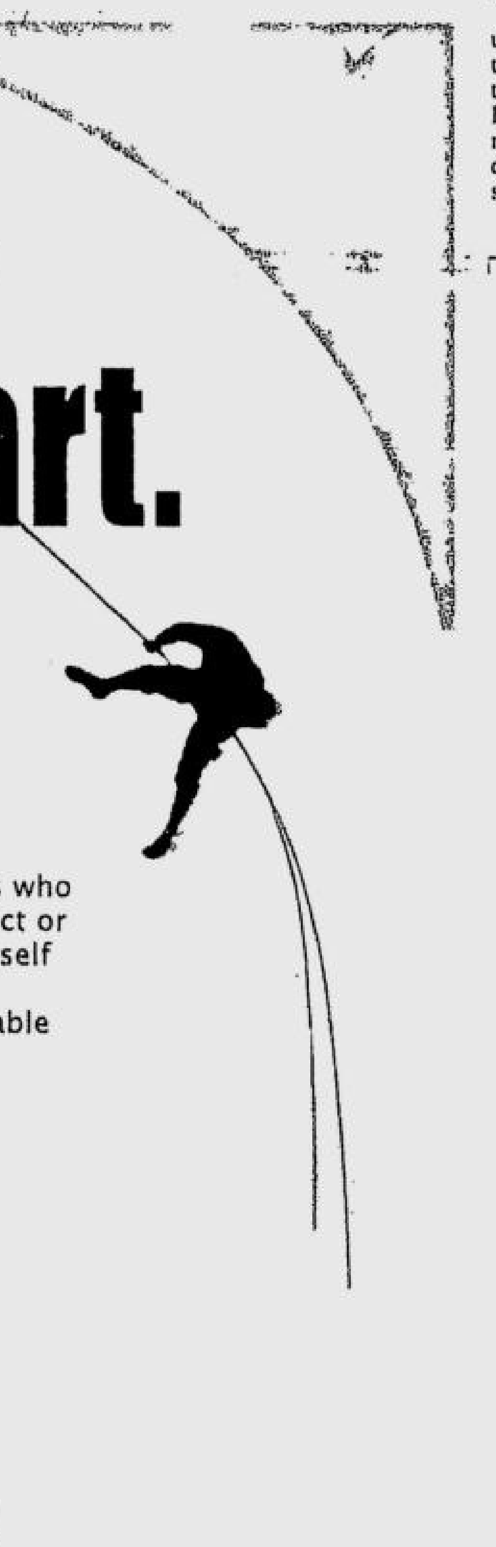

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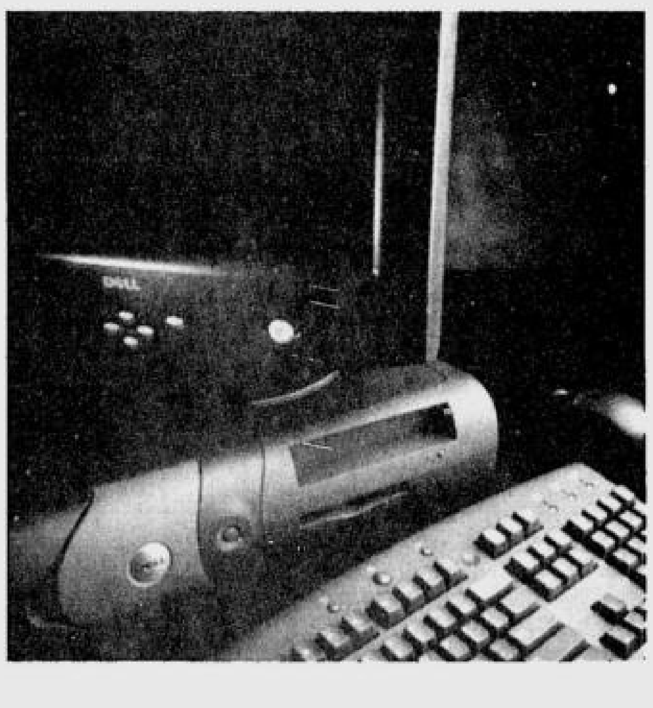

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Price clobbered

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

COMPARED to the carnival atmosphere at the S&R Price in Fort Bonifacio last Saturday—there was even a rock band wailing some ear-piercing tunes—the original PriceSmart, along the Alabang-Zapote Road, looked like a ghost town.

How empty? One could roller skate unimpeded on its wide aisles, for one. Only three of the 16 pay counters were open, for another.

The store's bakery and chicken rotisseries, always a hit during its pre-divorce days with its American principals, had been closed.

The white lines and the electronics sections had altogether been dropped, and the store seemed to be just clearing its inventory of imported tires and batteries.

Despite the retention of the US name, PriceSmart of Jose Go's Ever-Gotesco Group has dropped membership requirements and opened the store to everyone, just like any other supermarket, in an effort to boost traffic. And instead of wholesale, the store has now gone retail.

Unfortunately, the traffic seemed to have evaporated altogether, and the members who had been willing to brave the traffic-choked Alabang-Zapote corridor had moved en masse on to the wide. open spaces of Fort Bonifacio.

Still, PriceSmart appeared to carry just as many stateside consumables than its more successful competition, swore one dedicated shopper, who noted that many of the foreign foodstuff and chocolates carried by the new S&R Price were "imported" from Malaysia.

PriceSmart had also marked down the higher-ticket items like US-branded bed sheets, comforter, and linen, although it does not necessarily mean one cannot get the same items cheaper elsewhere.

(And if you fancy Mott's Bloody Mary Mix, PriceSmart still has bottles and bottles of it on display.)

Real estate movements

- ANDREW Tan's Megaworld is building this year not one but two medium-rise residential condominiums in Legaspi Village, the second one being on what is now a vacant lot doubling as car park on Carlos Palanca Street.
- THE GOTIANUNS are putting up their own version of the Manila Polo Club, minus the polo field and the driving range, at their Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

The three-hectare The Palms Country Club is offering a total of 2,300 proprietary shares at prices ranging from P550,000 for individual to P1.375 million for corporate.

The club's 24-member advisory board is headed by Vicente Ayllon of Insular Life and Jose Sandejas of the Professional Managers.

The club is targeted for a May 2002 opening.

Anguished steak

IN AN effort to broaden the market in these parlous times, Carmelo Santiago of Melo's fame is taking the Angus steak to the middle classes.

Santiago is opening the Steak Factory in Rockwell's Powerplant mall, offering "Angus steak" dinners at under P300 a plate as against the P1,000+++ of the real McCoy offered at Melo's.

The P300-steak, Santiago swears, would come from the same Angus beef stock that Melo's serves; admittedly, though, like Dad's of VicVic Villavicencio which has successfully parlayed the practice, the meat would come from a lesser cut.

Santiago hopes the Steak Factory would become a byword here in the same manner that Tad's of Broadway and 34th St. has become a New York institution.

Heard through the grapevine

DANTE Tan of BW Resources fame is said to be cooling his heels in New Zealand under the protection of his ex-BW Resources partner, the diminutive Jihong Lu of the Savoy Group.

Charlie "Atong" Ang, on the other hand, had been spotted in Las Vegas, where he seemed to have found an instant second home. He was said to have even given a party to a few Manila-based Erap friends.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Mapua to acquire old RCBC building

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TOP engineering school Mapua Institute of Technology is set to acquire the old building of its banking affiliate Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. on Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, for P1.1 billion as part of its expansion into information technology education.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RCBC spokesperson Cesar Rubio said the bank's board of directors had accepted an offer from MIT to acquire the property, which consists of land with a lot area of 8,371 square meters and a three-story building with basement.

The property to be transferred to MIT has a total floor area of 15,572 square meters. It will become MIT's Makati campus and the university's IT center.

In an interview, MIT president Reynaldo Vea said the university planned to transfer from the original Intramuros campus to Makati its IT programs, such as the bachelors degree program in computer science, IT and information management.

"We're hoping that by next year, we'll be able to move these programs to Makati," Vea said.

Vea also said that MIT has formed a wholly owned subsidiary called Mapua Information Technology Center (MITC) that would offer two-year associated degree programs in IT, which could be eventually used as a ladder toward the regular four-year programs. The new Makati building will also house these programs.

DTI eyes imports of basic goods

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is willing to encourage more imports of basic commodities in order to keep prices stable in the face of the continued weakness of the local currency.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the DTI was seriously considering "inducing" more importations as one of the agency's options to keep prices of basic commodities, primarily milk and flour, firm.

Roxas said the DTI could lower duties (which are already minimal) on either the raw materials or the finished goods of basic commodities to generate cost savings and avert a price hike.

Roxas noted that liquid and powdered milk were 100 percent imported; the tin used for packaging was also shipped from abroad; and flour was 80 percent imported. In view of these products' dependence on imports, Roxas said the continued deterioration of the foreign exchange would inevitably have an impact on their prices.

But Roxas said these "are general statements and all of these tools do not necessarily apply to every product." He stressed that there might be no compelling reason to induce imports because the keen competition in the local market has ensured that primary commodities such as detergent powder, canned fish and canned meat products remain within the reach of the masses.

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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	100,000	110,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/300,000*/450,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	335,000/400,000 *	400,000/450,000 *
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	3,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	850,000/975,000 *
ORCHARD A/B/C**	600,000 **	230,000/425,000 *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	280,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	430,000/850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	850,000
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PYRAMIDING SCHEMES

SEC probes marketing firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is investigating seven supposed multi-level marketing firms for possibly violating the country's Securities Regulation Code by engaging in the sale of unregistered securities.

An official of the SEC said that the government agency has been receiving a lot of tips and leads about some companies allegedly involved in the illegal sale of investment contracts through pyramiding schemes.

Aside from looking into such information, the SEC was also drawing up guidelines to prevent the increasing proliferation of illegal multi-level marketing companies, the official said.

One of the proposed guidelines provides for the referral to the trade and industry department of those SEC-filed applications to create or register multi-level marketing companies.

The SEC will not act on such applications unless the DTI determines that the schemes of such companies involved actual products or are not pyramiding schemes.

Through the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation, the SEC was able to close down Prosperity.com, which has allegedly been selling unregistered securities through a pyramiding scheme.

The SEC has also made permanent a cease-and-desist order against Power Homes, another company allegedly involved in the same operations as Prosperity.com.

The SEC has been very active in issuing CDOs against companies allegedly involved in securities fraud through pyramiding schemes or through "boiler room" operations.

The modus operandi of a boiler room operator is to employ telemarketers and foreigners who, as unregistered brokers, use high-pressure sales techniques and promises of exorbitant returns on investment to fraudulently sell overseas securities.

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.163603	1.000000	52.2520
Japan	Yen	0.009407	0.008084	0.4224
United Kingdom	Pound	1.645218	1.413900	73.8791
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149188	0.128212	6.6993
Switzerland	Franc	0.658072	0.565547	29.5510
Canada	Dollar	0.766637	0.658848	34.4261
Singapore	Dollar	0.640045	0.550055	28.7415
Australia	Dollar	0.600198	0.515810	26.9521
Bahrain	Dinar	3.086643	2.652661	138.6068
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.310277	0.266652	13.9331
Brunei	Dollar	0.637067	0.547495	28.6077
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025801	0.022173	1.1586
UAE	Dirham	0.316816	0.272272	14.2268
Korea	Won	0.000895	0.000769	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.859400	44.9054
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.439404	22.9597
France	Franc	0.152450	0.131015	6.8458
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.389979	20.3772
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062455	3.2634
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021304	1.1132
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000444	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144541	7.5526
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004287	0.2240
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005165	0.2699
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021304	1.1132
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.091213	57.0181

RFM says Cosmos talks 'exploratory, preliminary'

FOOD conglomerate RFM Corp. said yesterday it was not aggressively seeking partners for its soft drinks unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. but was open to any deal that would be beneficial to the company.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, RFM spokesperson Ramon Lopez said talks had always been ongoing with potential partners but they were on an exploratory level and that no agreement had been reached.

"We wish to emphasize that RFM is not aggressively pursuing suitors for Cosmos . . . Time and again, talks continue to take place but these have been on an exploratory basis only and have not reached any form of agreement or conclusion," Lopez said.

"The RFM/Cosmos management is duty-bound to look at all options or offers that come its way and decide which, if any would be in the best interest of their shareholders."

RFM issued the disclosure in reaction to news it was currently studying offers by PepsiCo Inc. and San Miguel Corp. for the purchase of Cosmos.

San Miguel, the country's largest food and beverage firm, had offered to buy RFM's 85-percent stake in Cosmos for P12 billion ($229.4 million).

A senior San Miguel official said no agreement had been reached yet as the RFM management quoted a price of P16 billion.

PepsiCo, on the other hand, reportedly wanted a minority stake.

Reuters

Online trading seen soaring

SINGAPORE—Investing in stocks via the Internet is set to become more prevalent in the Asia-Pacific region in the next five years, technology research firm International Data Corp. said yesterday.

The firm said in a report that the number of online trading accounts in Asia outside of Japan was set to grow from eight million at the end of last year to more than 42 million in 2005.

This presented a challenge for the securities industries in Asia which was going through some consolidation, the report said.

"The securities industry in Asia-Pacific is facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities brought about by the emergence of new digital channels, market deregulation, industry consolidation and shrinking stock turnover," said Kit Yau, the firm's regional online financial research manager.

"It is important to sign up new customers as soon as possible and convert existing clients to online trading," she said.

According to the report, South Korea had the highest volume of online trading activity.

Online trading was poised to see a sharp increase in China, the report said.

"Online trading has grown dramatically over the past two years," the report said.

"Individual investors in the PRC (China) are very receptive to self-directed channels," it said.

The firm predicted that 22 percent of all trading accounts in China will be from the Internet by 2005.

Six economies were surveyed in the report including Singapore, Australia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

AFP

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, June 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73	74	73	74	273,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38.5	38	38	98,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	215	208	209	459,200
Philippine National Bank	44	44.5	44	44	23,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	100
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	20	20	800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	60,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	231	231	231	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1385	1385	1380	1380	3,360
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1185	1185	1175	1175	9,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	40	40	17,100
Diversified Fin. Network	7	7	7	7	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.5	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	660	660	15,050
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	600,000
Piltel	0.6	0.64	0.6	0.63	104,720,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	705	705	40,050
Ivantage Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.038	62,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39	39.5	39	39	4,200
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	56	55.5	56	216,700
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.18	2.06	2.1	5,850,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.32	2.46	2.32	2.42	9,633,000
William Gothong & Aboitiz	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	140,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	25,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	193,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.5	4.65	4.2	4.2	1,733,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	37,900
RFM Corp.	1.46	1.58	1.44	1.5	4,238,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	29,900
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	73,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,024,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.8	0.76	0.79	700,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	20,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	198,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	5,095,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.56	1.26	1.3	14,926,000
APC Group Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.58	1.68	1.58	1.6	4,803,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	3,160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	31,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	26.5	28	26.5	27.5	1,202,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	500,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	40,800
Ipeople Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	142,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	660,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	580,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	150,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	200,030,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	2,000
Music Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.94	70,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	130,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	135,000
Stoniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	1,670,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.58	1,910,000
Manila Jockey Club	16	16	16	16	6,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.38	0.29	0.32	7,050,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5	5	27,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	11,500
Dmci Holdings Inc.- Pref.	495	495	495	495	130
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.55	2.55	2	2	830,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	660	660	660	660	50
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	18,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0024	0.0024	41,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	24,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	4,317,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	4,680,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	6,710,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.18	2.24	2.18	2.22	1,768,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,739,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.98	2	1.98	2	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.055	0.0625	0.046	0.05	207,200,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.06	0.0625	0.0525	0.0525	8,700,000
Omico Corporation	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	8,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	620,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	2,990,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	4,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,900,000

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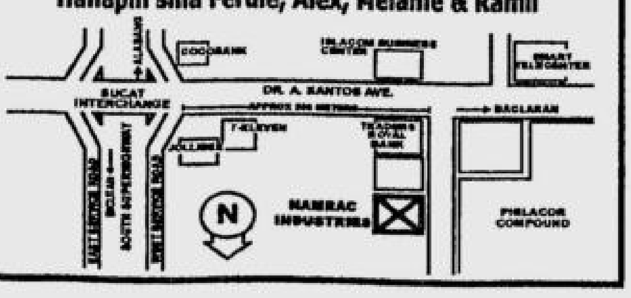

DISCLOSURES

Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc. has elected Teodoro Ablang Jr. to its board.

* * *

MANILA Electric Co. announced the election of Jesus Francisco as director, replacing Peter Garrucho Jr. who resigned effective immediately.

* * *

CEBU Property Ventures & Development Corp. has declared a P0.10 per share cash dividend payable on July 17 in favor of stockholders of record as of July 10.

* * *

ALSONS Cement Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Aug.16. Stockholders of record as of July 16 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Pancake House Inc.** were Martin Lorenzo, Milagros Basa, Gabriel Singson Jr., Ma. Isabel Del Val, Tomas Lorenzo, Lourdes Beatrice Benitez, Cecile Macaalay, Zenaida Mercado and Fernan Lukban. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **JONAS D. TOLENTINO** was extrajudicially settled among his heirs by virtue of a public document executed and ratified on May 18, 2001 before Michael S. Rulvivar, Notary Public for an in the State of New York. (PDI-June 20, 27 & July 4, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that passport no. EE278773 of **CARMENCITA R. CARINO** was lost. In case found, pls. call 324-4409 or bring it to #312 C. Cristobal St., Tondo, Mla. (PDI- June 27, 2001)

Manila Water kicks off 'most ambitious' project

By Abigail L. Ho

MANILA Water Co. has enlisted the services of SAP Portals Inc. for its "most ambitious, extensive and expensive project" so far.

"I am not allowed to name a figure since we made special arrangements with SAP, but I can say that this is the most ambitious project that Manila Water has undergone," Manila Water chief information officer Geodino Carpio said in an interview yesterday.

Carpio said SAP, an Internet portal and business services products provider, would help improve Manila Water's internal business processes to make them more suitable for private sector management.

"Government corporations have different business processes compared to private companies. Our acquisition of mySAP.com serves as a catalyst for implementing key business processes that will enhance our efficiency in providing water service in the concession area," he said.

Manila Water recently acquired SAP's mySAP.com, a complete suite of business solutions covering financials, business information, customer relationship management and supply chain management.

Carpio said Manila Water would initially use mySap.com to automate its billing system and general ledger.

"With this, we can provide our customers with more accurate information regarding their bills. They can also expect faster arrival of bills and less mix-ups," he said.

Manila Water has filed a petition seeking a P1-per-cubic-meter increase in its basic rate.

IMF backs BSP rates policy

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund is supporting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to keep its overnight rates unchanged unless the US Federal Reserve implements a huge cut in its own rates, a possibility that most analysts have already written off.

"I told the IMF we plan to stay at current (overnight) levels unless the US Fed makes a drastic cut. They agreed with us," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview yesterday.

Buenaventura said last week the central bank would not lower or raise its overnight interest rates in the near term, although he admitted the level of the peso currency was causing some concern.

Even if the Fed decides to cut its key rates by 50 basis points next week, there will be no change in the country's benchmark rates, according to Buenaventura.

"We probably will not lower interest rates for the time being. Neither will we bring it up for now. I don't see the need for that," he told reporters.

"Even if the Fed cut by 50 basis points, we will keep rates stable."

The Philippines' overnight borrowing rate now stands at 9 percent and the lending rate at 11.25 percent.

Buenaventura said the central bank would consider cutting its rates should the Fed cut its rates by 100 basis points.

There is little doubt that the Fed, faced with an economy that has moved into the slow lane, will cut US interest rates at its policy meeting this week.

But debate has erupted over whether it will take its foot off the gas a bit and trim rates only slightly or put the pedal to the metal with its sixth aggressive rate cut this year.

Responding to a rapid erosion in the health of the US economy, the Fed has cut interest rates five times since January, each time by a half-percentage point.

The key Fed funds rate, which influences borrowing costs for everything from credit cards to home mortgages, is at 4 percent, its lowest level in seven years.

Now, with gloomy data still rolling in even after all the cuts, some Fed watchers are calling for another half-point cut to steer the economy around recession territory.

Others say that with a tax rebate in the pipeline and the full effect of the Fed's prior moves yet to be felt, US central bankers should trim rates by a quarter-percentage point and wait to see if enough has been done to turn around the world's largest economy.

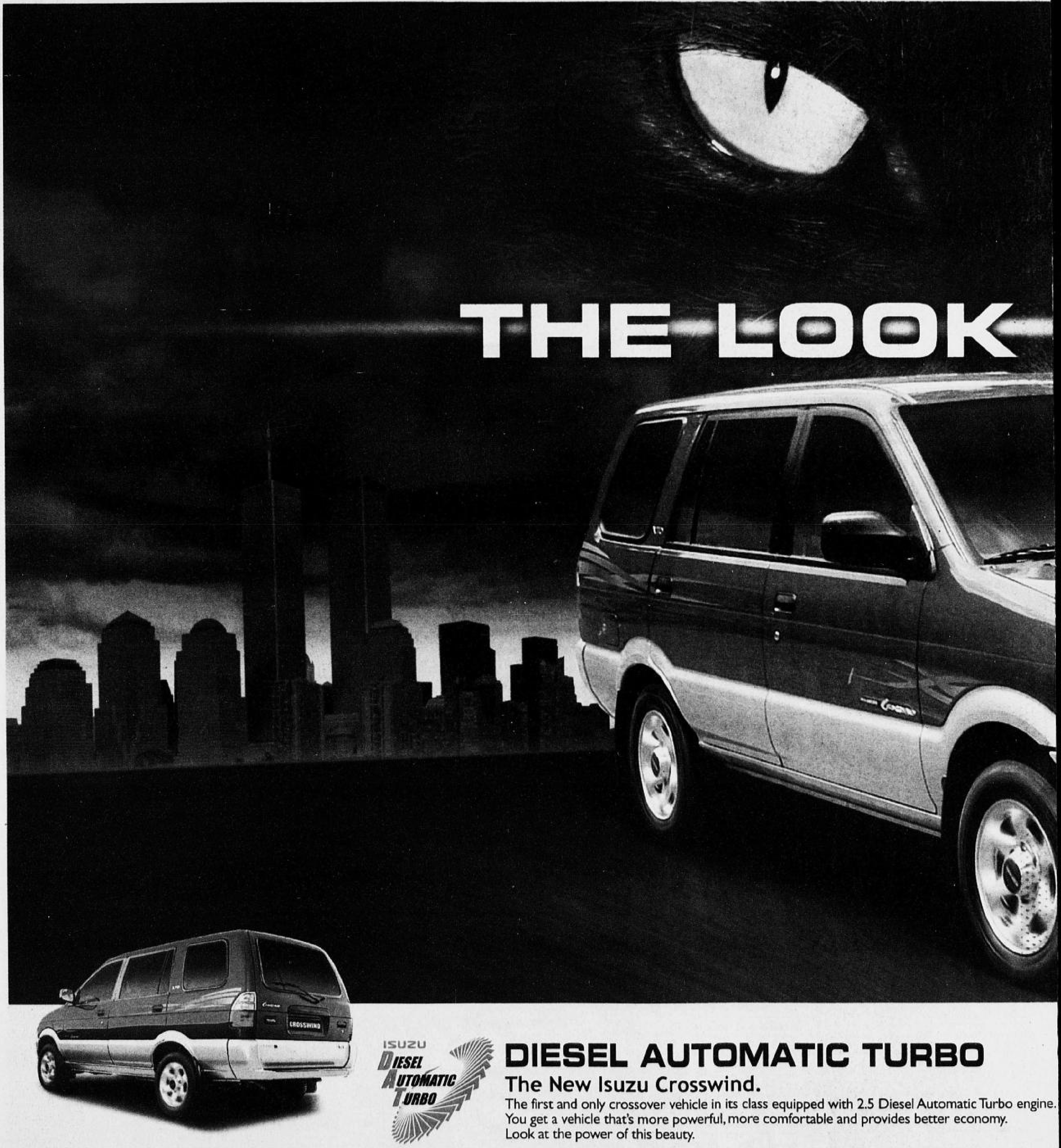
Infocomm meet begins today

THE 10TH Asian Media Information and Communication Center's annual conference opens today in Makati with the theme—"Asia's infocomm future: Values, competence and capacity.

The day's discussions will start with a message from President Macapagal-Arroyo to be read by Press Secretary Noel Cabrera. Augusto Lagman, president of the Philippine Computer Society, will give the inaugural address.

The conference will discuss the future of Asia's information communication in tune with the demands of globalization. Several other topics concerning the information and communications industry are also slated during the day.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung are the principal sponsors.



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Gov't to adopt 'population management plan,' says Neda

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MACAPAGAL administration is keen on adopting a national population management program integrated with its overall development agenda, according to Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

Canlas, head of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the government recognized the need to check population growth as part of an overall strategy to ensure macroeconomic stability.

This came following concerns that the government had been pressured by the Catholic Church into turning a blind eye to the issue of population growth.

Prelates led by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin were instrumental in President Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to power during a military-backed civilian revolt in January.

Critics said one of the concessions Ms Macapagal had to make in return for the Catholic Church's support was a less tolerant policy towards birth control.

The Catholic Church has been rabid in campaigning against artificial means of controlling population growth, which the government prefers.

Canlas assured that the Macapagal administration would continue previous initiatives to implement a program based on sound reproductive health for women, men and adolescents.

"It includes guaranteeing the access of the poor to family planning services with the help of local government units, business and non-governmental organizations," he said.

"Family planning is, however, not a stand-alone strategy. It is integrated with the overall development scheme of the administration," he said.

Canlas noted that it was also crucial to have well-coordinated fiscal, monetary, financial market and exchange rate policies to achieve low inflation and a sound balance-of-payment position. Unexpected surges in unemployment and declines in income, which stemmed from improper macroeconomic policies, was weighing heavily on the poor and must be avoided, he said.

"The annual population growth averaging about 2.3 percent is rapid, given the country's stage of development. If this rate is left unchecked, the current population size, currently estimated at 76 million, will double in 30 years," Canlas said.

He said the country's population consisted largely of young people who were "way below their peak earnings period and are largely dependent on their parents for support. Household savings are kept low, constraining investments that could raise the productive capacity of the economy."

Canlas noted that large families in the provinces were creating pressure to open up marginal lands for cultivation.

"Agricultural activity is impaired. With low earnings in rural agriculture, many are impelled to migrate to the urban areas hoping to find better-paying jobs," he said.

"Lacking industrial skills and discipline, the migrants end up doing menial jobs in the informal sector, resulting in squatting and other anti-social activities. In the process, high fertility in the rural areas is exported into the urban areas and rural poverty gets transformed into urban poverty."

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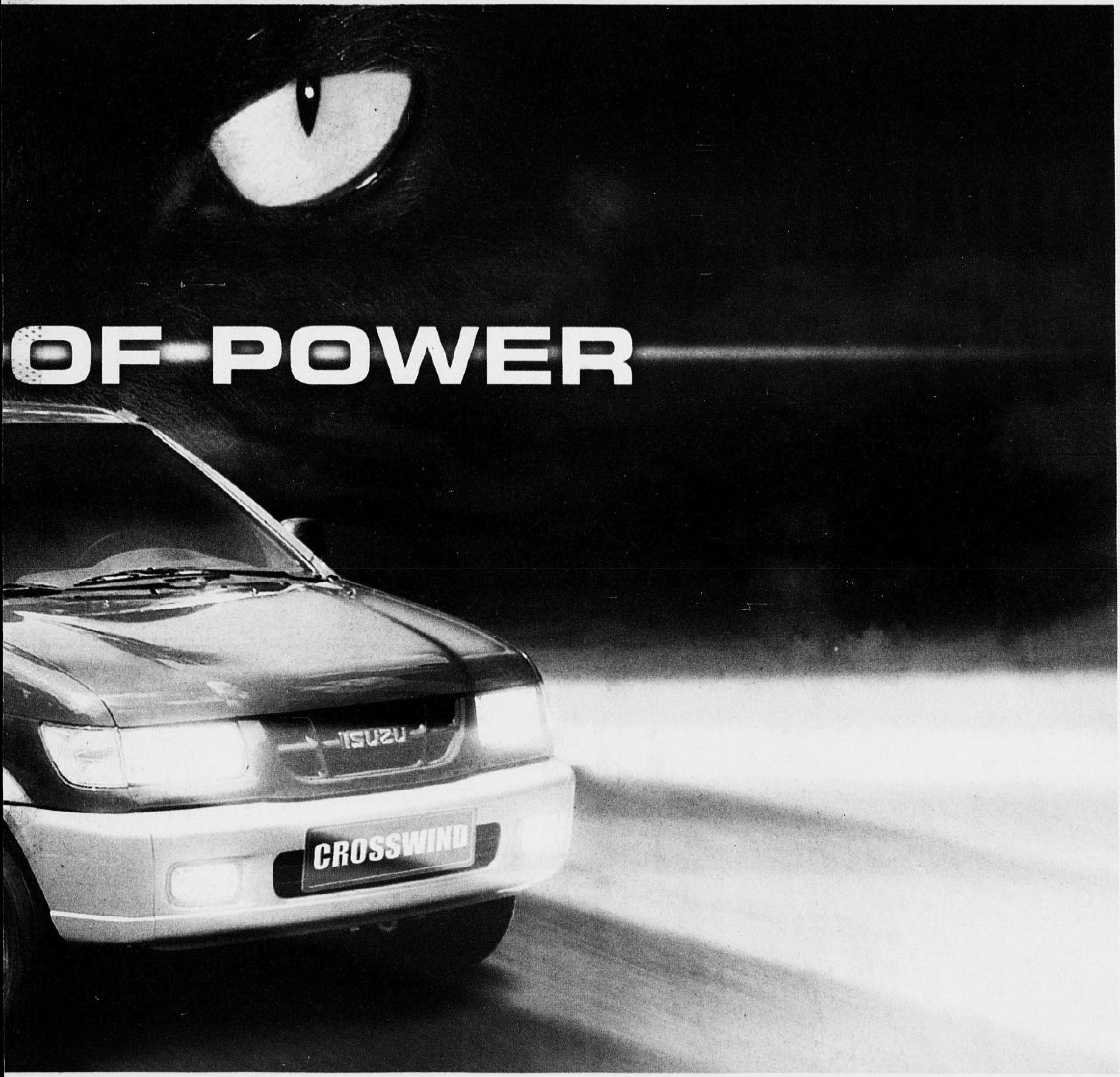

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ROMEO G. FUNTILA, SR., M.D.

UP-College of Medicine, Class 1962
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AND FOUNDING MEMBER
LAS PIÑAS DOCTORS HOSPITAL, INC.

Peacefully joined his Creator
On Monday, June 25, 2001
at the age of 64.

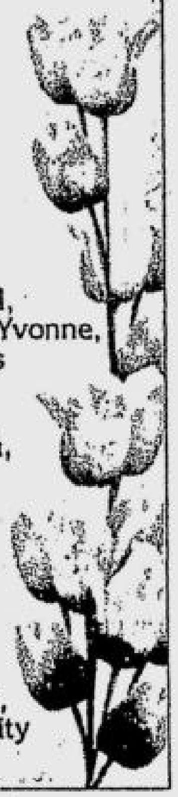
His bereaved wife **Catalina**; children **Joanne**, **Zeny** and **Mark**, **Romeo Jr.** and **Mitch**, **Gina** and **Zardi**, **Carol**, **Patrick**; grandchildren **Justin**, **Denise**, **Romeo III** and **Phil**; relatives, friends, stockholders and staff of Las Piñas Doctors Hospital request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later.

LAURO S. PLATON

Former Division Superintendent of Schools
Province of Romblon



Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord on 25 of June 2001 at the age of 89.

His bereaved wife Consuelo, children Erlinda & Ismael, Carlos & Lina, Fermina & Chuck, Ronnie & Linda, Junior & Yvonne, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani Church, Commerce Ave., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 01 July 2001, 10:00am, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City

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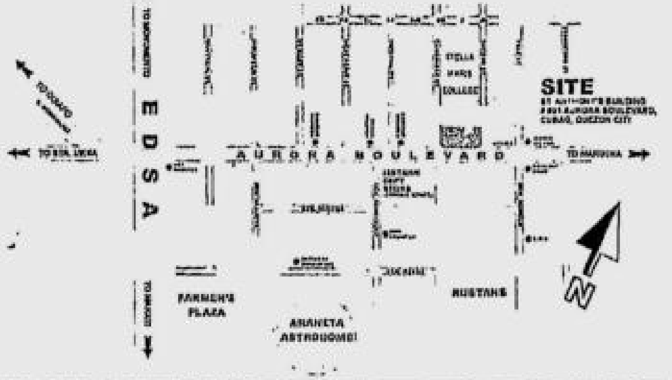

RICARDO L. ALFONSO, M.D.

Vice Chairman
Board of Trustees
Far Eastern University
Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 25th of June 2001

He is survived by his wife **Marita**; children **Dindo & Tessa**, **Marilyn**, **Evelyn & Henry**, **Ricky**, **Menchu & Gabriel** and grandchildren **Dini**, **Marita**, **Triccie**, **Richie**, **Dickie Roby**, **Mace**, **Olivia**, **Denise** and **RA** and his only surviving brother **Luis**.

His remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Church, Broadway St., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 28th June, 2001

Eternal
life
will swallow
up that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the Spirit
as a guarantee
that we will
live again.
2 Cor. 5:4-5

The family of the late

Gerardo G. Maambong

who joined our Creator in our Heavenly Home
on 23 June 2001 at the age of 55.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at the Mary Help of Christians Chapel, Shrine of the Mary Help of Christians, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 1, 2001, 11:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

A Message of Thanks

We the family of

ALEJANDRA C. NAZARIO

June 10, 1916 - June 16, 2001

sincerely convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our time of bereavement.

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Francisco B. Espanto, Jr.	BS Civil Engineering	Central Mindanao University
Garry R. Francisco	BS Mechanical Engineering	Rizal Technological College
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Adonis R. Sarmiento	BS Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering	University of Cebu

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Leo B. Ramoso	Diploma in Computer & Electronics Technology	STI - Calamba
Albert B. de Leon	Diploma in Computer & Electronics Technology	STI - Tanauan
Danilo A. Villanueva	Computer Science	Access Computer & Technical Schools

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*A Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today
at the Menzi Trust Fund Office
20th Floor, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City*

Atty. Matias B. Ramirez

Former Mayor of Bocaue, Bulacan

*Has joined his wife **Eugenia Sebastian**;
brothers and sisters **Dr. Pedro Ramirez, Luis Ramirez,
Julia Hipolito, Virginia Cruz, Ranulfo Ramirez,
Martin Ramirez** and **Olivia Ramirez**
on June 25, 2001 at the age of 84.*

Her loving children **Josie** and **Pempe Santiago, Jimmy** and **Perla Ramirez, Den** and **Mila Ramirez, Mickie** and **Manny Geronimo, Tina** and **Ruben Ricasio, Gee** and **Iko Salazar, Minnie** and **Tony Tamayo, Dino** and **Eva Ramirez**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at the Bocaue Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. necrological services and Holy Mass.

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NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all interested parties to submit two (2) copies of bids in sealed envelope subject to the General Terms and Conditions in the sale on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Bids will be received and opened by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on June 6, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City, in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

1 unit **Motor Vehicle, FORD EXPEDITION
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Color: Black**

Bid forms may be obtained from PBAC Secretariat Office, Mabini Building, Room 112-A, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City during office hours.

BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect contained thereto and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI -- May 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

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Date Issued	TCC No.	Amount
Nov. 8, 1996	007960	P 775,164.24
Nov. 8, 1996	007961	627,504.73
June 16, 1997	014834	1,112,351.90

The above-mentioned TCC's shall no longer be honored or accepted in payment of any liability to the government.

(PDI - June 27, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
**Province of Negros Oriental
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR**
Dumaguete City

June 22, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, through the Bids and Awards Committee, invites all interested suppliers and exclusive distributors to pre-qualify and to bid in the acquisition of the following service vehicles as specified, viz:

1) One (1) unit brand-new service vehicle, wagon-type, diesel engine with 155-160 h.p., turbo inter-cooler, timing gear-driven, 10 seaters, dual aircon, airbag, water-cooled, power-steering, power windows, door locks, side mirror, antenna, rear window defogger, magwheel tires, alloy rim 16, with 5-speed manual transmission, 4-wheel drive, disc brake and coil spring type at front and rear suspension, and installation of electrical winch, approx. capacity 8,000 lbs., remote control that includes car stereo, CD player, parts catalog, service manual, jack, tire wrench, spare tire, and warranty. F.O.B. Dumaguete City.
2) Two (2) units brand-new service vehicles, pick-up type, double cab, diesel engine, with 103-105 h.p., airbag, timing gear-driven, power steering, power lock, power window, air con, water-cooled, with 5-speed transmission, 4-wheel drive, torsion bar with telescopic shock absorber and disc brake at front suspension, brake drum rear that includes car stereo, parts catalog, service manual, jack, tire wrench, spare tire, and warranty. F.O.B. Dumaguete City.
3) One (1) unit Japan-surplus, reconditioned military jeep, diesel engine, 4-wheel drive with Fuso engine 4DR6 Turbo, newly-painted and original upholstery, new tires and batteries complete with jack, tire wrench, spare tire container rear carrier, registration and warranty. F.O.B. Dumaguete City.

Interested bidders are requested to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids on the above using the TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM, the first envelope (ENVELOPE A) containing all the pre-qualification requirements and the second envelope (ENVELOPE B) containing the bid quotations, the corresponding bidder's bond and the pertinent brochures. Bid forms are available at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The submission and opening of the two (2) sealed envelopes will be on July 6, 2001 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The list of pre-qualification requirements to be submitted are the following, viz:

1) Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
2) 2001 Mayor's Permit of the establishment
3) VAT Registration Certificate
4) 2000 Income Tax Return with audited Financial Statement of the establishment
5) DTI Certificate of Registration
6) Certificate of Distributorship/Exclusive Distributorship
7) Product List/List of vehicles available
8) Letter of Appointment of authorized representative duly notarized

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(Sgd.) **GEORGE P. ARNAIZ**
Governor of Negros Oriental

(PDI - June 27, 2001)

Crime fighting is his mission

(From page B12)

Becoming a crime fighter was never part of Jimenez's plans. A graduate of journalism from the University of Sto. Tomas (he was editor of the school organ), he wanted to take up law afterwards. But instead he ended up helping his father in the family business, a security agency. He also had a brief unmemorable stint as a DJ in an obscure radio station in Quezon City.

Following in his father's footsteps, Jimenez joined the Philippine Navy in 1974. "I enjoyed life at sea," he says. After several shipboard duties, he became 2nd lieutenant and was assigned to an intelligence unit, where he learned the ropes of intelligence work. "I gained experience in the field. This was a big help to me in the investigation of the killing of my brother and later, as head of CAV."

When he left the Navy, Jimenez became EVP of Mariners' Polytechnic Training Center, a family-owned institute, specializing in safety at sea (for aspiring seamen). For a long time, Jimenez enjoyed the life of an executive. It was his career, his bread and butter.

Sacrifices

Though it remains his source of livelihood, like everything else, it must now take a backseat to Jimenez's advocacy, his fight for truth and justice. This advocacy has become a full-time and far-reaching mission. Jimenez is totally involved and committed. "I spend most of my time here," he says, indicating the offices of VACC. Jimenez helps run the family business in absencia. "It does not need my constant presence. The rest of my siblings are there and I keep in touch through the cell phone."

Fortunately, according to Jimenez, Nimpa, his wife of 14 years is fully supportive of his mission. "But she and my eldest daughter worry about me," he adds (He and Nimpa have two other younger daughters.). Perhaps justifiably because death threats have become practically routine for Jimenez, who maintains security personnel or bodyguards for his protection. He also tries to stay away from very public places.

Jimenez insists this is a small price to pay for the rewards. "The biggest payoff is when a case is successful," he says. "Last year, we won 25 out of 31 promulgations (announcements of verdict). Six were dismissed or acquitted."

PHOTO BY ERIK ARAZAS

JIMENEZ (third from left) with fellow crime fighters.

This is not bad, remarks Jimenez, considering the lamentable state of our judicial system. If he was able to oversee his brother's case, he rationalizes, he sees no reason why other survivors like himself can't do the same. Boboy's killers were sentenced to life imprisonment on March 26, 1998. For the Jimenezes, it was an uphill struggle from which they emerged triumphant.

Vigilance

"To ensure justice, we must be vigilant." This is the credo Jimenez tries to impart to his fellow survivors. "We at VACC can prop you up, give you moral support, be with you during the trial. We are experts because we have gone through the same ordeal," he explains.

But the arduous task of monitoring the case, down to the nitty-gritty, must fall on the shoulders of the survivors and family of the victim. Even when there is a conviction, says Jimenez, one can't afford to be complacent. "At VACC, we have what we call jail watch. We pay surprise visits to the convict to make sure he is not receiving special treatment and more importantly, that he does not escape."

Jimenez feels our justice system deteriorated during the last decade. "This is why we're here," he says, pointing out that VACC is like a brotherhood. There is intense closeness among the members (there are now 4,000 nationwide) and unfailing trust in each other. "Those who are losing faith come to us because we keep faith and hope alive." Jimenez is an indefatigable idealist, who believes there is always hope, including hope for a crime-free and corruption-free society.

Jimenez, by the way, served briefly with the Estrada administration as commissioner of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC). Appointed in August 1998, he resigned in May 2000 due to irreconcilable differences with Estrada.

Passing the torch

Does he plan on staying in the forefront of the fight for truth and justice? "Yes, I would like to keep on with my mission. I shall continue to seek reforms in our justice system. I would like to bring our cause to the barangay level, where I believe corruption is likely to start."

Corruption, underlines Jimenez, is at the core of our flawed justice system. Passionate about stopping it and yet realistic enough to know that his mission is a Herculean one, nonetheless he is optimistic that one day his dream will happen.

Though he has fulfilled his promise to his brother Boboy—"As he lay on his deathbed, I vowed I would seek justice for him"—Jimenez is afraid that he may not be able to finish what he started. He may not see the fruits of his labor. "I would like to perpetuate my crusade. But who will continue it? Who will pick up the torch when I go?" Most likely, he remarks, it will be his sister Merle, who was also very close to Boboy. Or who knows? Another crime fighter might emerge, someone with the same zeal and enthusiasm, the same conviction and passion for truth and justice that Dante Jimenez has in abundance.

On Planet Work, reality bites

By Rochelle Leonor

POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

BACK when I was still studying, I had so many beautiful notions on work. I imagined myself donning the latest power suits, tinkering with the latest techno-gadgets and earning an obscene amount of money. I imagined that by the time I turn 40, I would just be lolling on the white sands of some paradise in the Caribbean, or at the very least, Palawan.

Silly me to even think of those things. Finishing a writing course, I should have listened to my professors when they said one could never raise a family with writing, much less support oneself. Of course, when I think about it, I am glad I have a father to run to, each time my money doesn't make it to the next payday.

But apart from the wise words of my professors regarding the meager amount of money one would earn from writing, there are plenty of things they never really told me about work. It's true what they say, "You can't learn everything in school."

These are some of the things I learned after school:

1. Finding a job is as hard as finding a needle in a haystack. When I graduated two years ago, I thought that finding a job would be a piece of cake. I figured that since I'm from the State U, it was just a matter of time before companies knock on my door and beg for my services. It actually took me a good five months before I landed a job. Serves me right for having a huge ego!

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

2. You never get your full salary. Each time I get my pay slip from our Budget Department, I always feel a lump in my throat while muttering, "*Ito lang ba ang pinagtrabahuhan ko ng isang buwan?*" Once you join the work force, the first thing you will learn is the number of deductions from your salary for SSS, Pag-ibig, withholding tax, at the very least. And if you're an avid fan of *pahulugan* in your office, chances are you'll go home empty-handed.

3. Watch your back or else some people might stab you. I consider my first job (in another newspaper) my baptism of fire. Although I loved doing my work and was happily minding my own business, other people just couldn't do the same. Rumormongers started telling nasty things about a couple of officemates and me. I remember they even declared me the "Text Master" for the simple reason that I was among the first people who had their own cell phones. *Inggitero*! Luckily, in my present job, I am no longer the subject of such discussions. The worst rumor about me is probably that I'm going out with so and so, which I officially and categorically declare to be untrue.

4. Working gives me confidence. It actually gives me a sense of purpose, that I am doing something that is affecting most people in a good way. Somehow, I am a firm believer that reading something—be it a story or just trivia—may change a person's life. Although I have yet to receive a letter telling me that my article changed his life (or even hate mail!), I find contentment in the fact that I am able to impart some knowledge, however insignificant it may seem.

The occasional bylines also help. For a wannabe writer like myself, nothing beats seeing your name in print (and in the country's best newspaper at that!). It also feels good that I'm no longer a mouth my parents have to feed. Sure, I still ask my dad for shopping money from time to time but it's more of an indulgence now than a necessity.

The money I earn, however little it may be, also gives me freedom to spend for myself. I no longer feel guilty if I splurge on clothes, books or even, travelling, since I feel that I deserve these for all the hard work I've done. The recent North Luzon vacation I took with a friend cost me a lot of money but what the heck! My attitude is, "It's my money and I can spend it anyway I want to!"

5. You'll meet all kinds of people at work. Indeed, I met the most interesting and funniest people while at work. They've become my good friends and *gimik*-mates. Sure, I've also met nasty ones, the type that I'd like to drown in the pool, but all in all, most people I've met at work are the decent ones. They're just like me, trying to survive the hassles of life and doing the best they can.

Okay, so I may not be donning the latest power suits since I content myself with casual tops and skirts. I'm also not tinkering with the latest techno-gadgets; I make do with my 3210. And I still haven't been to Palawan, only Pagudpud. And I realize that I just might not be able to retire at the age of 40, given the little savings I can have. But with the way things are going and since realizing how much I love working, I just might not retire after all.

(Send contributions to "Postcards from the Corporate Edge" to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

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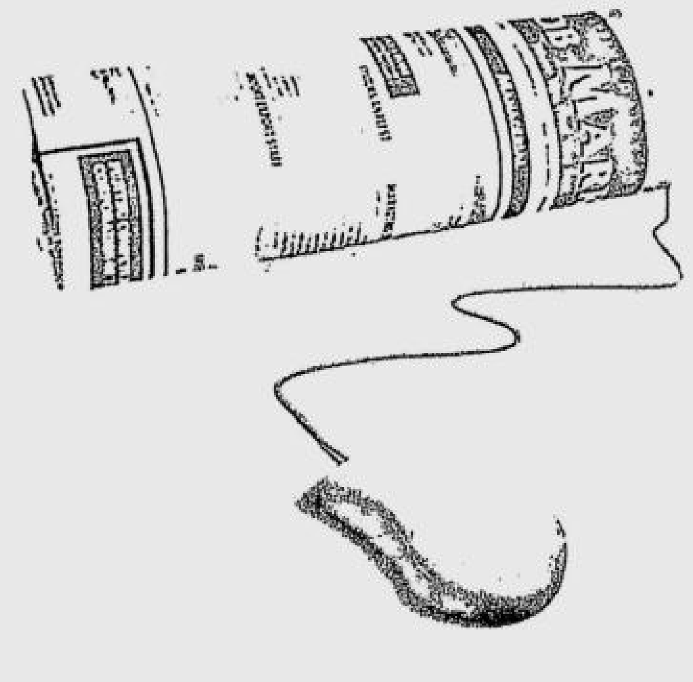

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How to become a valuable employee

By Ernie O. Cecilia

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IN THE new economy, business will become more competitive to the point that companies will pay their employees only for the creation of value that the customers are in turn willing to pay for.

Good attitude alone will not create that value. You must have the competencies needed in your business to make it viable enough to provide competitive compensation for employees and fair returns to the investors. All the stakeholders—customers, vendors, employees, government, and society in general—will demand value from your organization.

If this is the scenario, how can you become a valuable employee or one who contributes value to an organization? The two most common ways are by helping generate revenue and by reducing costs. But how can this be concretized? Here are a few tips:

1. Produce results.

Do what you are paid to do, which is to produce results. There is absolutely no point in spinning your wheels, running around in circles, or expending a lot of effort and sweat without producing results. Be results-oriented, not task-oriented. Your organization must get its money's worth from your contribution. Otherwise, it is spending money on you needlessly.

2. Have pride in your company and products.

Feel good about your company and its products. In fact, you should patronize them often (except if your company is in the memorial services business). For companies with consumer products, their employees should also be their consumers and customers.

Every time you buy your own products, you help your company generate revenue. Every time you buy your competitors' products, you fund your competitors' efforts to ease your company out of the market.

3. Be a "salesman" even if you're not.

Whenever you have the opportunity, speak well about and endorse your products to your friends, relatives and people you meet. You don't have to join the sales force to be able to sell your company or its products.

Never speak ill of your company even if you have grievances. That's like washing your dirty linen in public. When you give others a bad impression of your company, you can't expect them to buy your products.

4. Don't waste resources.

Your company's resources are not exactly bottomless. Even if they are, there is no reason at all to waste them. When you spend your company's resources with reckless abandon, the company is deprived of the opportunity to use those resources to generate more customers, products or profits.

The small amount that each employee saves in the wise use of company resources can add up to great sums of money. Maybe, those savings that you did not make could have enabled your company to declare a bigger bonus.

5. Recycle.

Don't just throw away used paper and office supplies. Many of the things you use can be reused over and over again—bond paper, carbon paper, rubber band, envelopes, etc. There can be no limit to the creativity in the way office supplies can be used and reused wisely, if only employees wish to. Those who display a sense of "*malasakit*" usually get rewarded.

6. Complete work on time.

You help the company, and eventually your own career, if you complete your work on time. The idea is to accomplish as much during the time allotted for your work.

Some wise guys spread as little work as possible over the regular time. This unduly necessitates working overtime, which is counter-productive both to the company and the employee. When you render overtime, the company spends extra money and resources, and you fail to do other things more worthwhile—like spending more time with your family. Worse, constant overtime gives the impression that you can't do your work well.

7. Do it right the first time.

You save a lot of time, effort and money when you do your work right the first time. This is a good concept in quality management that employees must strive to adhere to.

When you fail to do your work right, you will need extra time to redo it. Sometimes, your work is altogether wasted and you must start all over again. This is bad for you and the company. Show that you are dependable and thorough. You help your company and enhance your image of reliability.

8. Train and retrain yourself.

In the new workplace, you need to reinvent yourself. There are new skills and competencies to learn so that you can be more useful to your company. Take advantage of every opportunity to continuously learn and get empowered.

When you don't possess the right mix of skills needed to create value for your organization, it will become costly having you in that position where you cannot contribute. The company will spend time and resources to look for your replacement. You, too, might be out on the street again looking for a job that requires only the skills you have. To avoid this, train yourself continuously.

9. Participate actively.

Do not be a passive member of your organization. Do what you are expected to do—and more. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, help others and join teams. This way, you lend a helping hand, learn new skills, and show that others can depend on you. You save the company from getting additional help from outside, maybe get work done faster and better, thereby satisfying customers' needs. Contributions like these will not go unnoticed.

10. Innovate.

Maybe, you are the best person to know how to do your job better. Never be contented with the present ways of doing your work. Believe that there's always a better way and look for it. Any improvement you can implement in the way you do your job translates into higher efficiency or lower cost to the company. This is what the company wants. Some companies want it so badly that it pays good money to outsiders to look into their processes so that they can be better reengineered. When you do it yourself, you are doing your company and yourself a favor.

There are countless other ways of helping your company generate more revenues or save on costs. Take the small first step today and you will become a more valuable employee.

(The author is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. His books, "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job" are available at National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Bookmark. E-mail feedback to erniec@edsamail.com.ph.*)*

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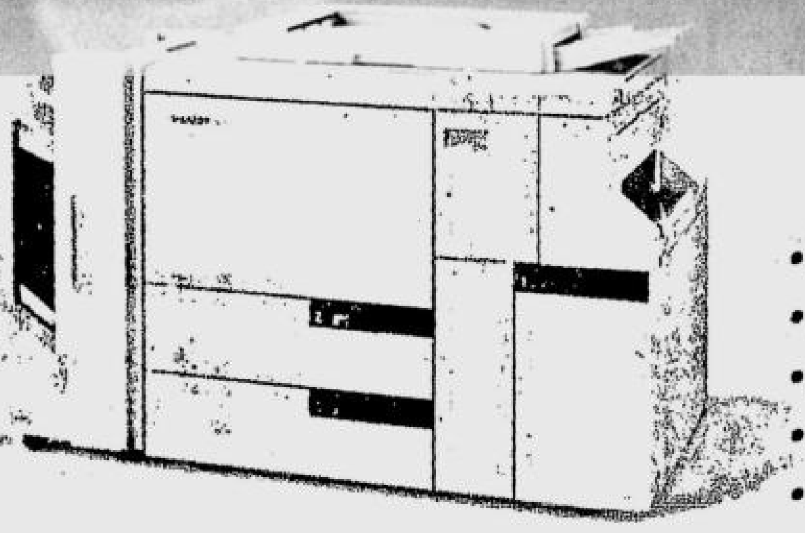

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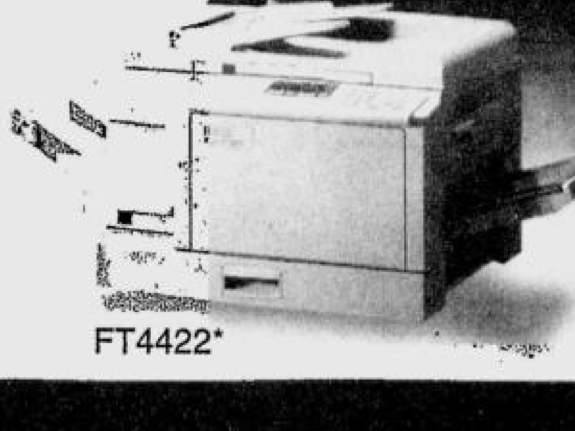

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Crime fighting is his mission

By Cecile G. Garcia

SOMETIMES a single event can transform our lives. "What changed my life completely," says noted crime fighter Dante Jimenez, "was the senseless killing of my younger brother Boboy in December 1990." Boboy was gunned down by drug pushers who had mistakenly suspected him of having reported their illegal activities to the authorities. The tragic mistake cost Boboy his life. For his bereaved brother, it meant "a 360-degree turn from everything I had known." It was a defining moment. From then on, nothing would ever be the same again.

For the past decade, Jimenez has been known as a crime fighter, a crusader who is in the forefront of the struggle for justice. He is presently president and chair of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), which he co-founded with Lauro Vizconde and others on July 30, 1998. VACC is committed to obtaining justice for crime and corruption. It also provides a support system for the survivors and families of these victims.

CAREER*Tales*

Beginnings

Earlier in October 1991, Jimenez, together with the other families of victims of crime (the Villas, Hultmans, Bernabes, Maguans and Lauro Vizconde) bonded themselves together into a body they named Crusade Against Violence (CAV), which was dedicated to the same principle: justice. "By 1996, we had 400 members," says Jimenez, "which was sad because it meant the number of crimes had increased."

In 1997, when then President Ramos appointed him commissioner of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, Jimenez, representing NGOs, realized CAV was no longer enough. "I felt we had to expand our options and widen our scope because there were so many other victims." In essence, that was how VACC came about.

VACC, says Jimenez, has become some kind of court of last resort, where those who despair for justice come for help, comfort and hope. "They travel all the way from the provinces to bring their problems to us," says Jimenez. The most common ones are rape, murder, robbery and illegal recruitment. "We help them by referring them back to government agencies, which pay little attention or ignore them completely. These agencies listen to us. We also have volunteer lawyers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals who can help them." Obviously, VACC has gained a foothold. It also has credibility and clout.

CRIME/B10

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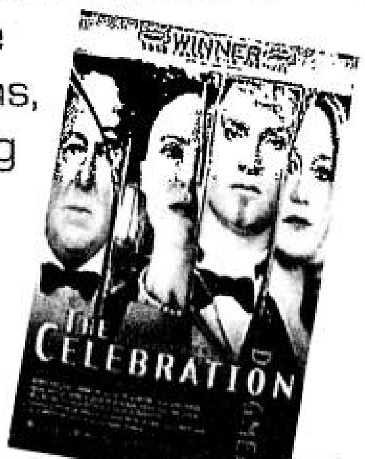

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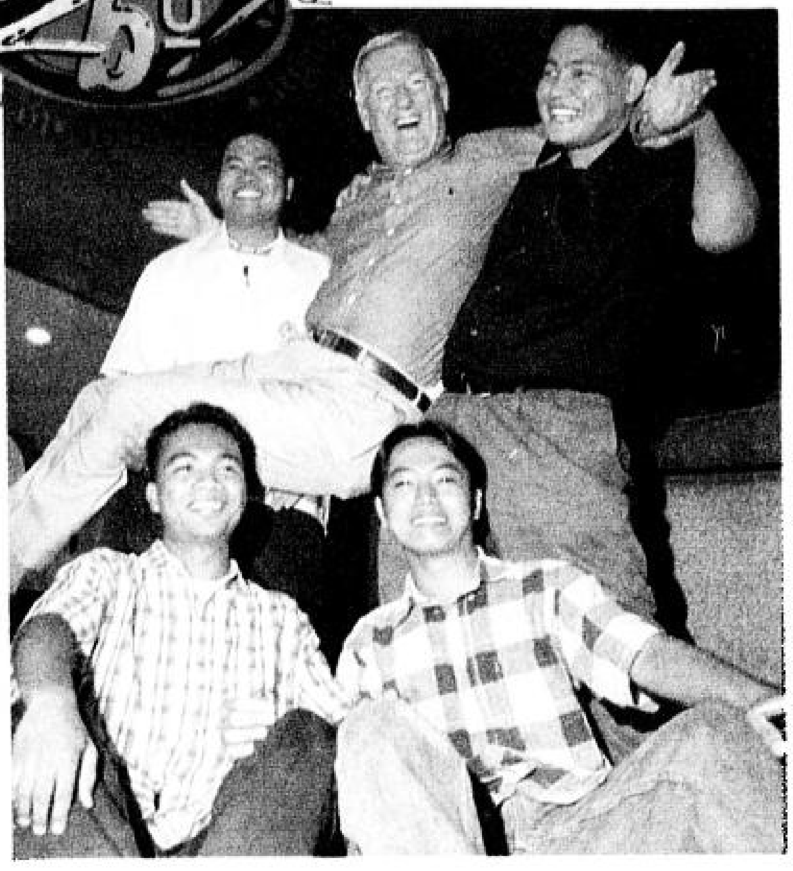
AYO goes on a three-week Asian tour

By Michael Garcia

WITH MEMBERS aged 15-25, this year's Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO) is composed of 104 talented young musicians from different Asian countries. The AYO has been in existence since 1987, under the artistic direction of Richard Pontzious. Since then, the group has already staged more than 171 concerts in about 115 cities to nearly half-a-million people. Among the highlights of AYO's long-standing career were its performances before a standing-room-only crowd in New York's Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, a private reception at the White House and at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. They have likewise opened the fall concert season in Berlin's Schauspielhaus and played at the Hollywood Bowl in the Sydney Opera House for the Sydney 2000 (Olympic Arts Festival) and in Amsterdam's historic Concertgebouw. In 1996, AYO traveled to Vietnam to become the first international orchestra in more than 50 years to perform in Hanoi. They returned again this year for four sold-out ticket concerts in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In 1997, they were featured in the Hong Kong and Beijing events marking the reunification of Hong Kong with China, together with the celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma for the world premiere performances of Tan Dun's "Symphony 1997."

For this year, AYO will be serenading audiences in Penang, Borneo, Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Osaka, Kyoto, Takamatsu and Tokyo. This three-week concert tour which will be held in August is the second half of the six-week period AYO members will be together. Conducting in this series of concerts will be AYO music director Sergiu Commissiona, an honorary member of the Swedish Academy of Music and founder of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's national competition for young American conductors.



ASIAN Youth Orchestra (AYO) founder-artistic director Richard Pontzious (center) with Filipino mucisians from AYO (seated, from left) Jayson Rivera, Saturnino Tiamson III; (standing, from left) Antoni Josef Inacay and Lorenzo Raval
JESS YUSON

In AYO's performances, the members will be joined by famous international artists. On the first night of its Manila stint on Aug. 17, world-renowned Filipino pianist Cecile Licad will join AYO. One of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Leventritt Gold Medal in 1981, Ms Licad had likewise won the Grand Prix du Disque Frederic Chopin for her album featuring Saint-Sacns' Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor together with conductor Andre Previn and the London Philharmonic. This album reached the top of the Billboard classical charts. On the second night of its Manila stop, it will be violinist Leila Josefowicz who will join the AYO. She has appeared with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including Boston, Los Angeles, London Philharmonic and Orchestre National de France. Leila, by the way, also served as an inspiration to popular novelist Anne Rice for the novel "Violin." In turn, the novel inspired Leila in her most notable recording to date, "Violin for Anne Rice," which she did in collaboration with Rice.

On Aug. 17, the Asian Youth Orchestra will be performing Beethoven's Symphony #7 in A, Op. 22, Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43 with guest artist Licad and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version). On Aug. 18, the AYO will be playing Glinka's Rusian and Ludmilla Overture, Mendelssohm's Concert for Violin and Orchestra in E minor, Op. 64 with guest artist Leila Josefowicz and Dvorak's Symphony #G in G. Op. 88. Both performances start at 8 p.m.

Rigid training

Before all these performances, though, these young musicians will first undergo some training at a rehearsal camp during the first three weeks that they will be together. Among those who will be training them are members of the faculty from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Musica Viva, the Cleveland Orchestra, Empire Brass, Yale and Diana Universities, the Julliard School, the New England Conservatory of Music and the San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Houston, Calgary and Vancouver symphony orchestras. Although excellent musicians in their own right, the young members of the AYO will still need all these rigid rehearsals. As has been earlier mentioned, they come from different parts of Asia and as such, will be meeting each other perhaps only for the first time. In passing, the process of selection comes by way of auditions. Every year, about 1,500-2,000 students from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam try their luck in the hope of being chosen. Having undergone such tight screening, there is no doubt as to the talent of these players.

Of the 104 AYO members this year, five Filipino musicians have been fortunate enough to be chosen. They are as follows: Antoni Josef R. Seaway (cello); Ariston G. Payte III (double bass); Lorenzo P. Raval (violin); Jayson Rivera (clarinet); and Saturnino Tiamson III (percussion). Having talked to cellist Antoni Inacay, a member of the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, he says that his primary motivation in joining AYO is to be able to meet and interact with people of different cultures. Mr. Pontzious, the founder, agrees with him by saying that with the experience these young students will have from mingling with other nationalities, they will now be able to know just how a Vietnamese smells, a Japanese thinks, a Chinese dresses, etc. More than that, however the AYO might just ignite a little more sense of pride among Asians, in that they will see (or hear) that the latter can be at par with the best talents in the world. It is therefore the orchestra's intention to expose Asia's brightest young musicians to rich and varied artistic experiences that include rare opportunities for exchange, study and touring with this century's most celebrated artists.

The Asian Youth Orchestra's Manila stint also aims to help raise funds for the Philippines' premier venue for arts and culture—the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The Asian Youth Orchestra's Manila performances will be held on Aug. 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office, Marketing Department and TicketWorld in major National Bookstore outlets. Call 832-3878, 551-7930, 832-1125 local 1409, 1803-1805, 891-5610 or 891-5743.

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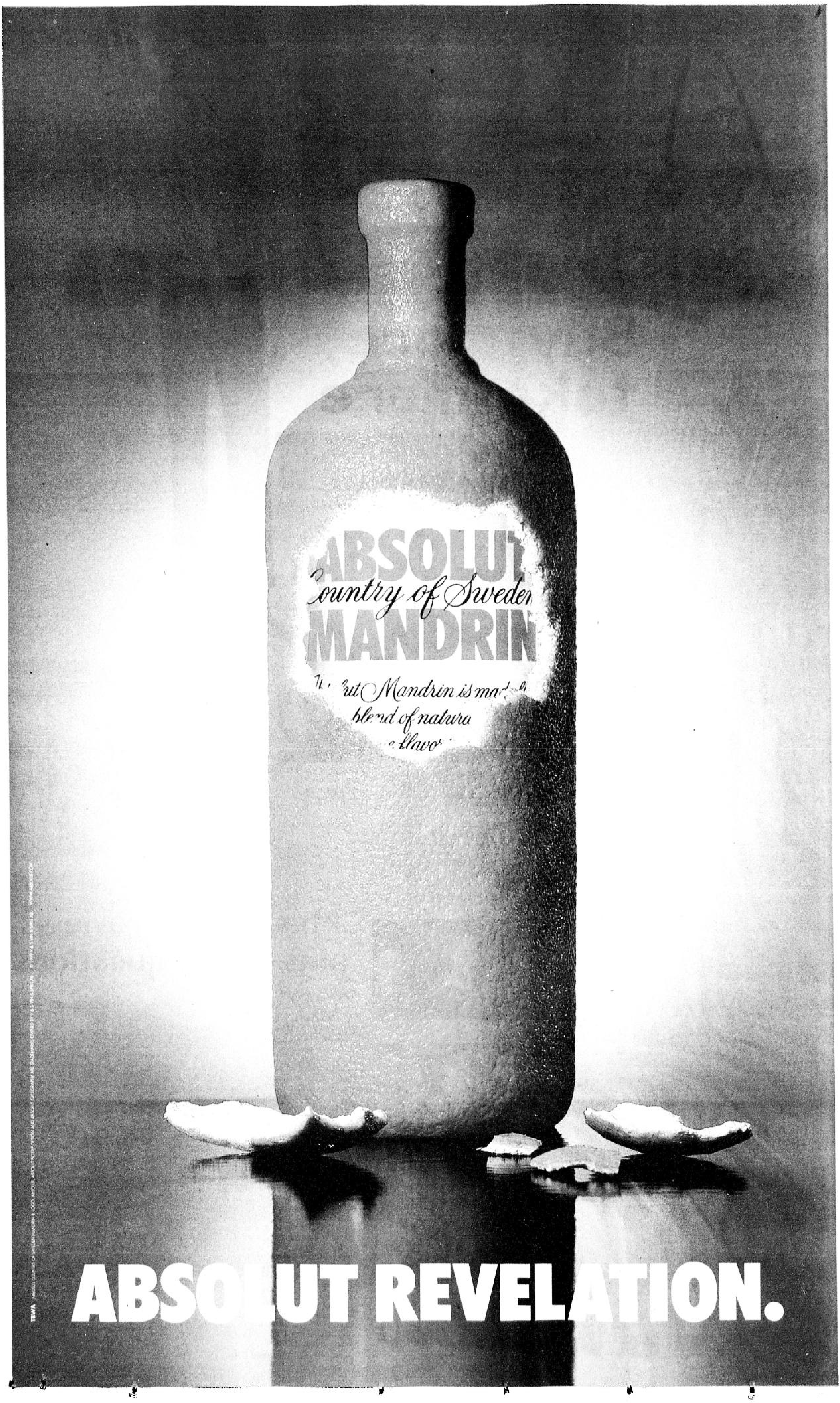
ABSOLUT
Country of Sweden
MANDRIN
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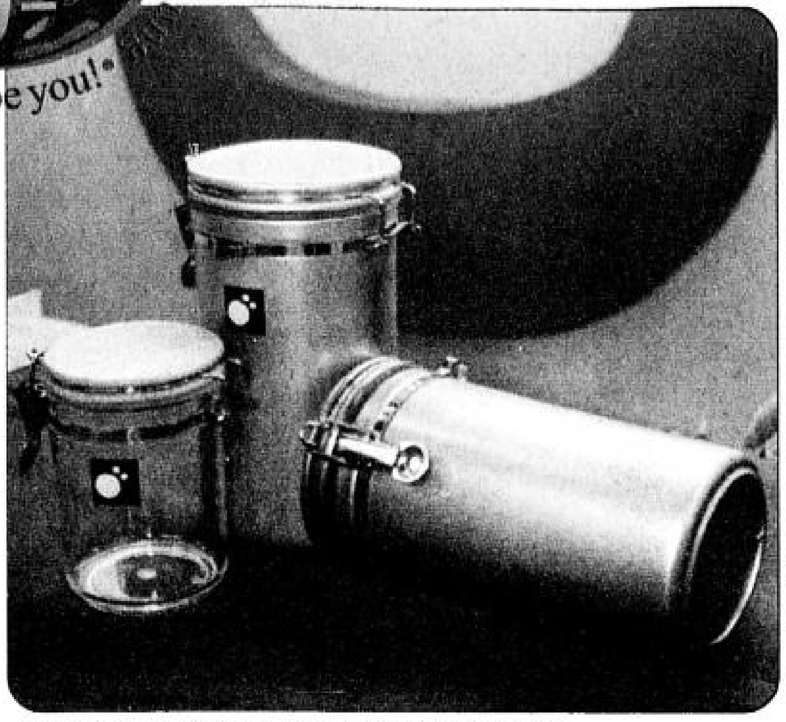
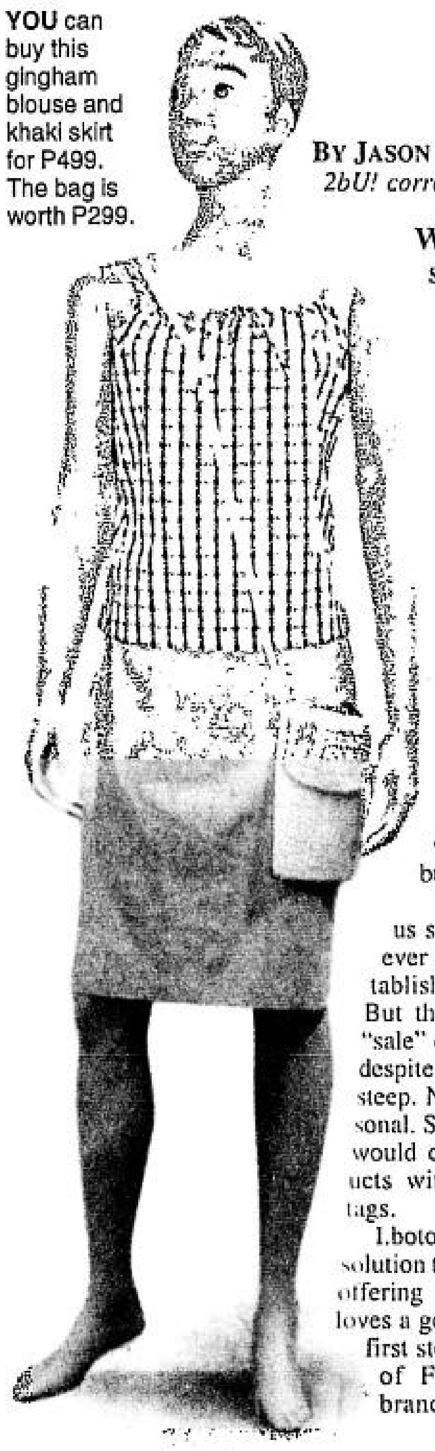
blend of natura
flavo
ABSOLUT REVELATION.

BAG IT UP. P499 for these geometric beauties


THESE food canisters are under the P499 category.

Buy more, take more


YOU can buy this gingham blouse and khaki skirt for P499. The bag is worth P299.

By Jason Doplito
2bU! correspondent

WITH THE PRICE of goods spiraling way up, it seems that consumers, teenagers in particular, have cash to throw away. Despite the tuition fee hike and horrendous inflation rate, we all seem to have the luxury to spend an added peso or two on different products in the market. We seem to be all rich and able to afford most of the things we want in life.

Not true. Most Filipinos are trying hard to make it through the day-to-day. And the pinch is not lost on teenagers who have to manage their allowances wisely to be able to afford from budget meals to P1 text messages.

It is because of this that most of us salivate at the word "sale" whenever it is plastered in every major establishment and shop advertisement. But then again, there are cases when "sale" doesn't really help at all because despite the come-on, prices are still quite steep. Not to mention that sales are seasonal. So it would be a big help if a store would come up with high-quality products without the shock-inducing price tags.

I.boto concept store comes up with a solution to this dilemma by doing just that: offering the best deal for everyone who loves a good bargain. When I visited their first store in Manila at the second level of Farmers Plaza, Cubao (other branches are located at Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños, Laguna and Robinsons Place, Imus), I was pleased with their spacious interiors and nearly arranged merchandise. Items were separated into four price categories: P99, P199, P299 and P499.

According to Carmina Quizon, division merchandise manager, I.boto has perhaps the most unique concept in retailing. "I believe this is the first store in the country with this kind of concept," she says. Carmina is of course, talking about the Buy One, Take One offer of I.boto.

buy one take one
P299
THE SIGN SAYS IT ALL. Any two of these items are worth P299.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

ALL these for P499, excluding the mannequin

While most stores do offer the same deal on *some* of their items, at I.boto's all items are covered by this deal. "What we have here is that shoppers may get any two items from the same price category and pay for one. For instance, if you buy a blouse in the P299 section, you can get a skirt for free, as long as it's also priced at P299," she explains. True enough, this concept gives viewers more freedom in terms of the bargain that they get. Ordinarily, similar deals like this are only limited to one type of item. You buy a blouse, and get a similar blouse for free, a deal that is only perfect for twins.

Mix and match

However, at I.boto's, a shopper can easily mix and match items, and buy them at half the price. With P1,000, a student can easily purchase at least two tops and two pairs of jeans and have at least four new looks if they mix and match. I should know; I succumbed to the temptation, so help me God.

Aside from men's and women's clothes, the store also stocks accessories like beaded bracelets, sunglasses and caps. They also have other products like lunch boxes, plastic filers, bags and sandals that are perfect for school. "Basically, our target market isn't just young people, but anyone who wants good value for their money," Carmina adds. "We have a designer who updates our clothes so the latest in styles and trends are made available to our customers." In fact, some of their items are even imported, which explains the good fabric of their clothes.

For professionals, there are apparels available for casual Fridays, as well as other items such as photo albums, pillows, food canisters, blankets and even undergarments. If you're wondering how these items can be sold at such unbelievable prices, wonder no more. Carmina explains that I.boto "tries to get the best price and we pass it on to the consumer." This arrangement proves to be a win-win situation for both I.boto and its shoppers.

If you want your hard-earned peso to go somewhere, you know where to go.

CLOUD nine for shopaholics

Jeans giant says TY with a big get-wet party

JEANS giant Levi's and its sister company, Dockers, held recently its Partners Appreciation Night, The Series (Pants) at the NBC Tent of The Fort. "Thank you" was the main theme of the night, as Levi Strauss Philippines Inc. treated its partners to a night of Mardi Gras.

Delicious food by Café Isabel was served. A baby pool was filled with bottles and bottles of Smirnoff Mule. Dazzling techno lights and booming Mardi Gras sounds pierced the cold night air.

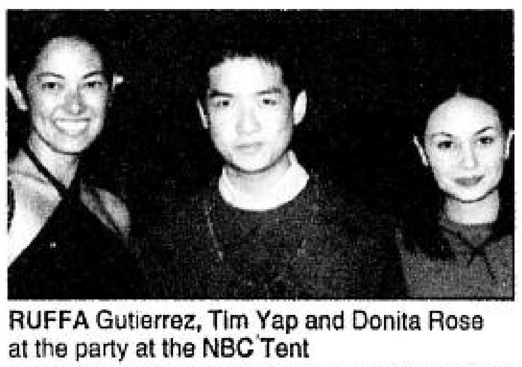
A show was hosted by Freddie Santos. Levi's country manager Minette Elicano and brand leader Steve Romasanta entertained the guests. Dockers' brand leader Bobet Romualdo and sales and distribution leader Dave Agbulos came, clad in vests and *sandos* showing off their buffed boas. Finance manager Emily Geraldez and HR manager Charisse Cruz looked funky in their colorful costumes. IT manager Ricky Torres, demand manager Rene Amane, planning and logistics head Chit Casas and HR manager Rhoda Valenzuela also mingled with the guests.

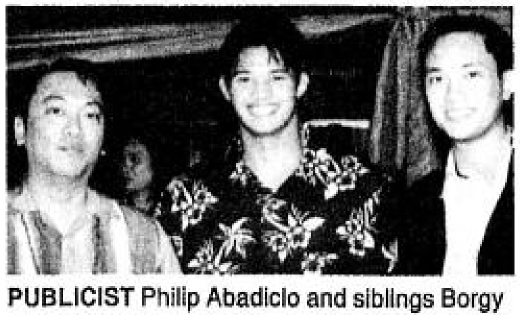
Fashion shows featuring Dockers and Levi's were presented. A colorful presentation on the history of Levi's jeans was shown on the vidi-wall, serving as the perfect backdrop for the party.

The Ugoy-ugoy and Puro Ritmo bands fired the dance floor with their funky and upbeat music. Celebrities Ruffa Gutierrez, Donita Rose and siblings TJ and Borgy Manotoc joined the revelry.

The ramp was made more stunning by the presence of models Joey Mead, Wilma Doesnt, Eazel Don, Maricris Perez, Michael Sol Cruz and Carl Hancock. The Levi's Campus Models were also present. Party columnist Tim Yap enjoyed the festivities from the sidelines. Audie Gemora and Stella Sison of Stages also joined the merrymaking.

It rained hard that night. But the people partied harder.


RUFFA Gutierrez, Tim Yap and Donita Rose at the party at the NBC Tent


PUBLICIST Philip Abadicio and siblings Borgy and TJ Manotoc

REVELERS ALL. The team behind Levi's

Music video reviews plus lots of questions

By Niño Mark M. Sablan

Mariah Carey—"Loverboy"

IN ANTICIPATION of her movie entitled "All That Glitters," Ms 8th Octave releases "Glitter," the new album containing the chaotic-sounding carrier single "Loverboy" and the video of which boasts of cleavage and butt cheeks galore. Surrounded by cars, cars, cars, Mariah flaunts her mammary glands partially covered by strips of cloth in different designs. There's a red bandana top, a blue tank top with the word glitter on it, an American flag-inspired one and a checkered flag-inspired one.

Seriously now, why doesn't she use *trapos/basahans* as a part of her wardrobe?

98°—"The Way You Want Me To"

98°, who are about to visit me, are out with their third single from the album "Revelation." The guys' latest offering is "The Way You Want Me To" which sounds like "One More Time" during certain synth-filled parts of the song. The video features the guys as video game characters: Justin as a race car driver; Jeff as a topless (drool) guy in some fighting game; Andrew as some guy who jumps off an airplane just to kiss his companion; and Nick as some topless (drool) guy trapped in a maze and hounded by the evil guys.

Why isn't Jessica Simpson making a cameo this time? Why isn't everybody topless? Why isn't anybody portraying Mario or Luigi? (God, I remember Lady Diane. Where is Lady Diane?)

D-12—"Purple Hills"

Slim Shady has returned. Together with proof, Swifty, Bizarre and the rest of D-12, Eminem is out with a single called Purple Hills which can be found in the "Devil's Night" album. A bit of an eye candy, you'll enjoy the presence of a giant troll (reminiscent of Christina Aguilera in "Lady Marmalade"), a live toilet bowl, a dancing cactus and some groovy female unanos male unanos of Blink 182 will surely drool after.

I know that I've just listened to the song once and that I didn't really comprehend everything, but why do I get the feeling that Eminem's a bit tamed this time?

Jessica Simpson—"Irresistible"

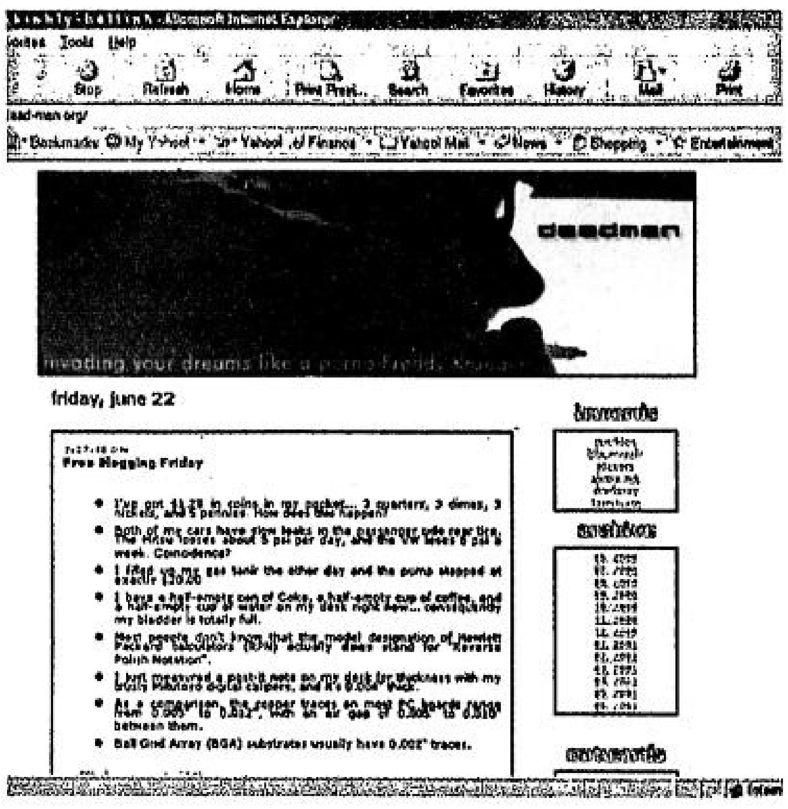
Miss Sweet Kisses is out with a brand-new album called "Irresistible", the title track of which has a video that will definitely remind you of Jennifer Lopez's "If You Had My Love," Britney Spears' "Stronger" and Janet Jackson's "All For You" (specifically the choreography, the wardrobe and the train intro).

My only question is: After the storm of glass shards, why isn't she all bloodied in the next scene?

Vina Morales—"Pillow"

Greenish and watery. That basically describes the video of Vina's single called "Pillow." It is reminiscent of a Pops Fernandez video wherein she resembles an alien. It features some sculpted Scandinavian (drool). And, for poetic/aesthetic purposes, I guess, it ends with Vina blowing a candle.

Why the hell do they have to have a bed underwater? Why are they cavorting? Is Miguel Zubiri making a cameo? Is Isabel Granada making a cameo as a mermaid?



deadman

friday, june 22

Free Blogging Friday

- Ball Grid Array (BGA) substrates usually have 0.002" traces.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

This Deadman tells a lot of tales

www.dead-man.org

BY PAM PASTOR

I DON'T know about you, but I'm sick of personal websites that serve no purpose other than inflating the owners' egos. Vanity sites (they're really personal shrines), please, give us a break! When I visit a site, I actually want to be able to get something out of it—even just a few minutes of entertainment.

I definitely got that from Deadman.org. I can't exactly put my finger on what exactly I like about it. It could be because the site's layout is easy on the eyes, unlike a lot of websites that tend to go overboard in the webmasters' desire to prove that they know how to use Photoshop. It could also be Deadman's dry wit and sarcasm. Yes. That I really liked.

Deadman, a musician who lives in Washington, D.C., has a lot of things to say. His prose is honest and funny, in a dark way. Take this quote (his reaction to his friend who just bought an engagement ring), "I gotta admit, it's pretty cool... but $10,000? Hopefully it'll buy them a lot of happiness."

Have a blast reading a year's worth of his journal entries. Don't forget to check out the comments of other people who've read his stuff, too. You may even post your own. There are also links to photos that he has taken during trips. This guy sure has a penchant for the Grand Canyon.

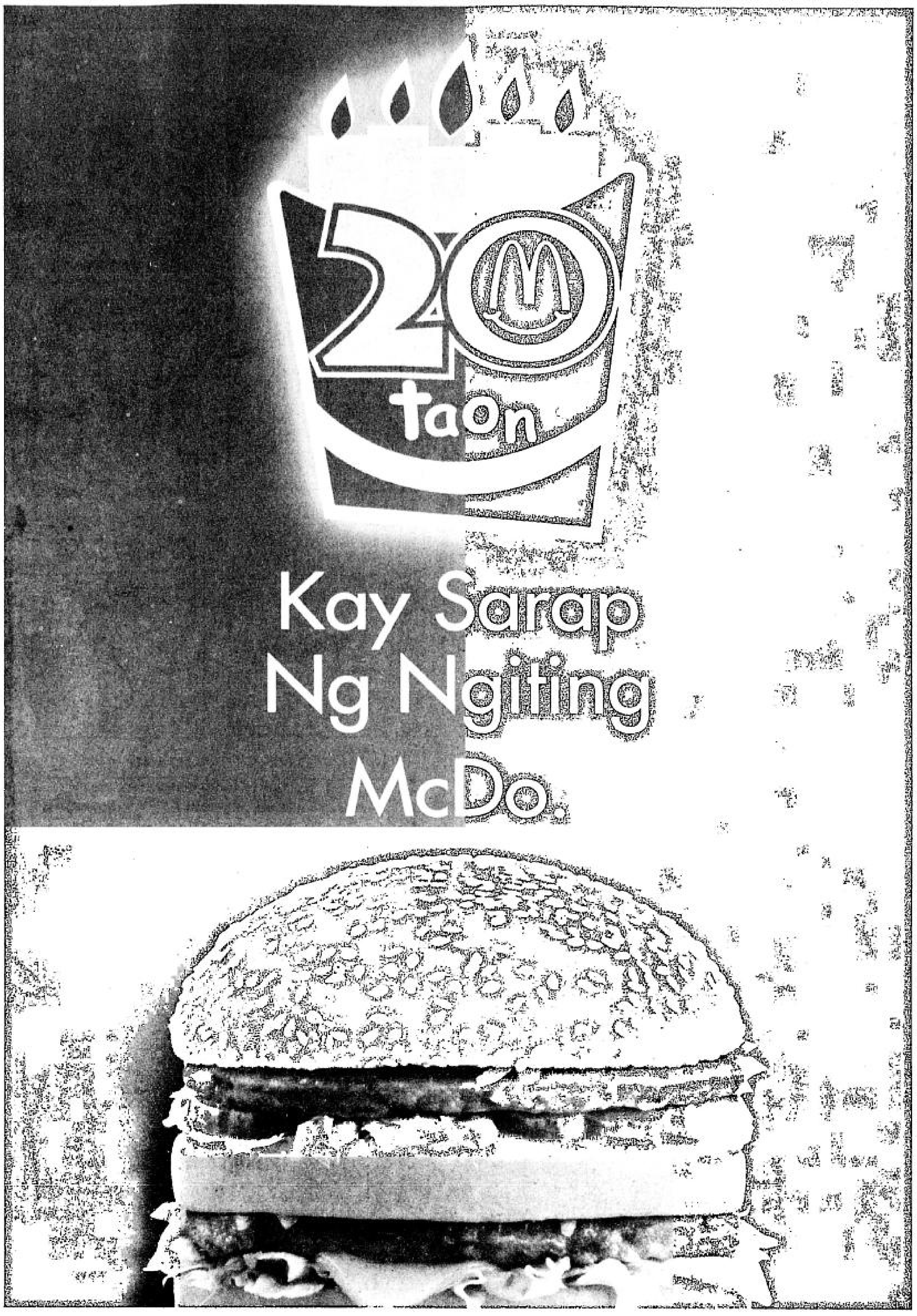
Click on the "players" link and read about his friends and "ex-players" (people that he's shut out of his life). The little caricatures are a nice touch.

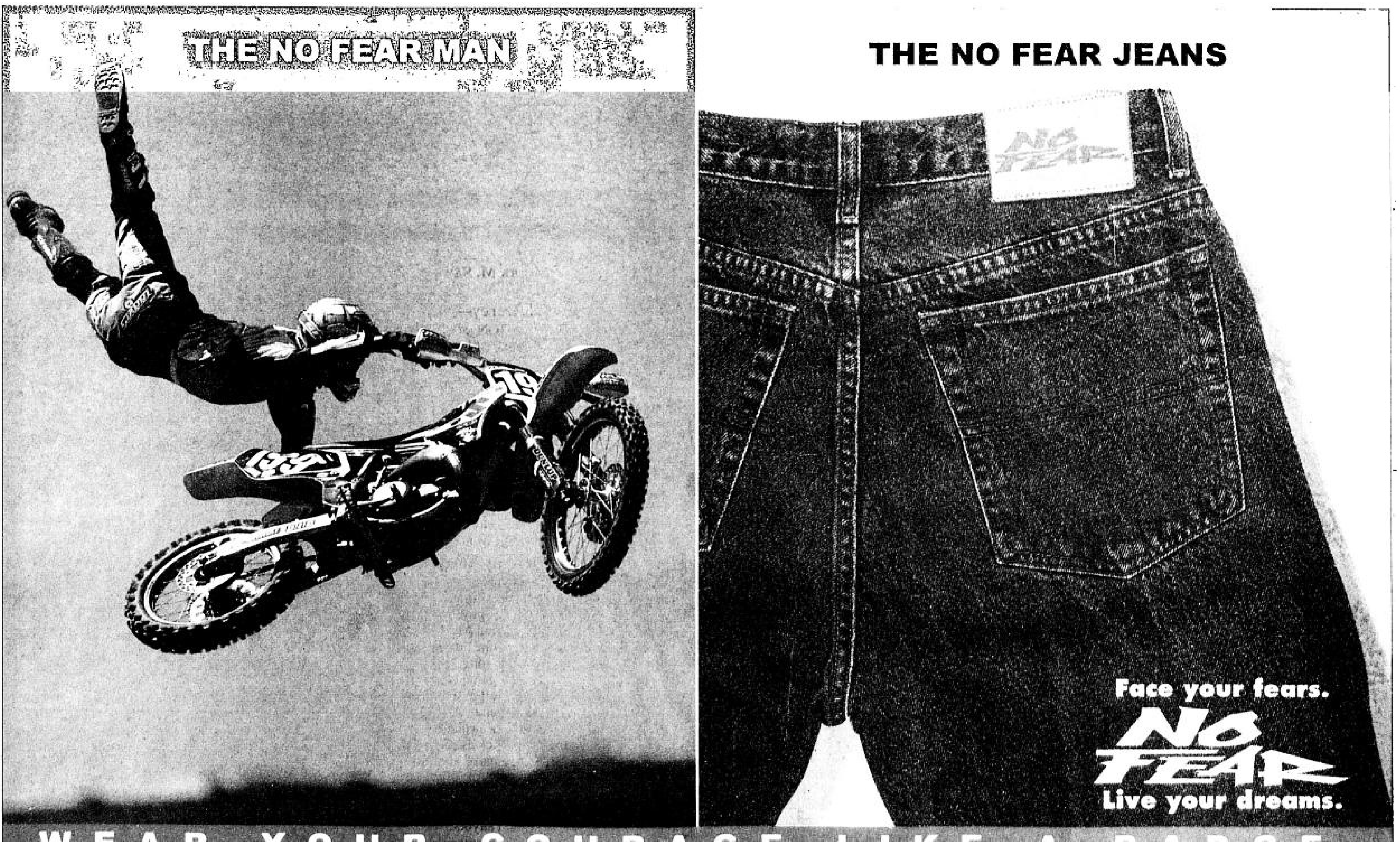
If you're eager to spew a stream of thoughts, Deadman's Joint is the place for you.

The site will keep you occupied for a while. And when you've soaked up the whole site for all it's worth and you're still eager for more, head on to the links. Deadman has a whole list of more sites that are similar to his.

I don't think Deadman is dead at all.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph.





Available at the following stores:
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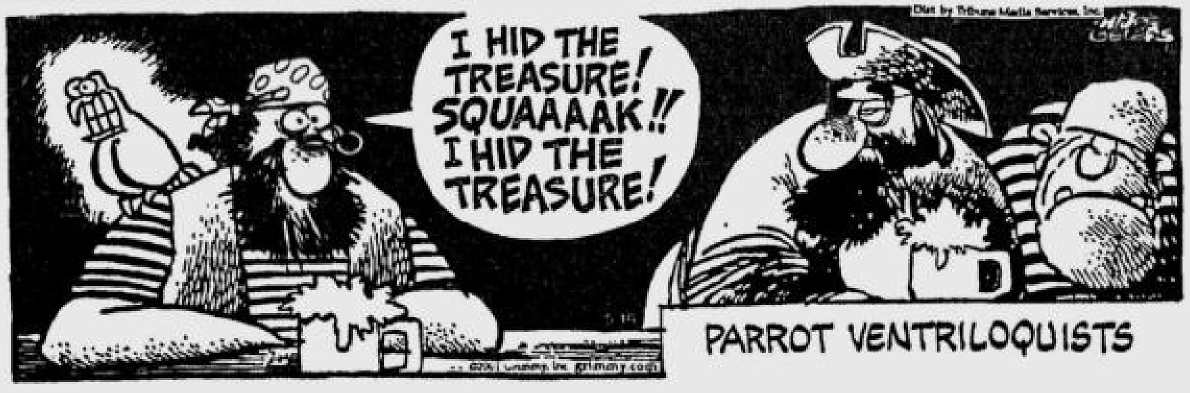
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc.
I HID THE TREASURE! SQUAAAAK!! I HID THE TREASURE!
PARROT VENTRILOQUISTS
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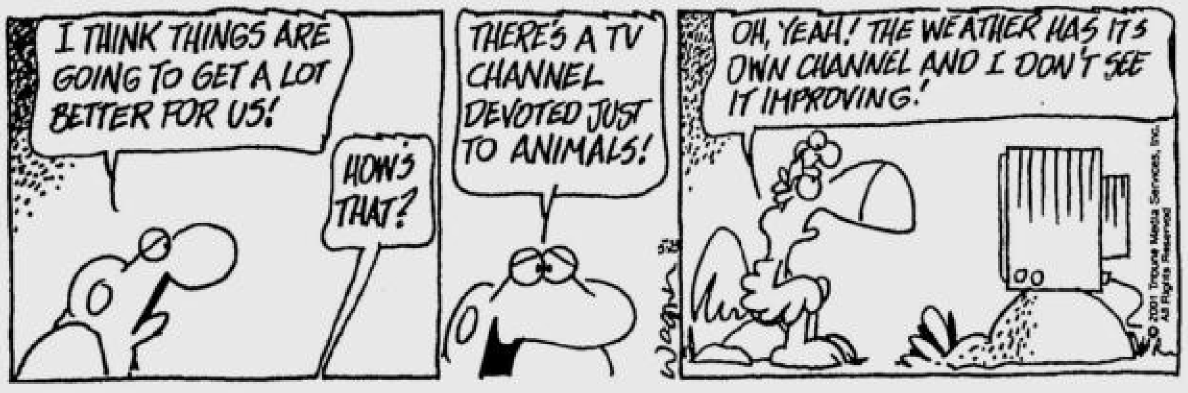
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


I THINK THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LOT BETTER FOR US!
HOW'S THAT?
THERE'S A TV CHANNEL DEVOTED JUST TO ANIMALS!
OH, YEAH! THE WEATHER HAS IT'S OWN CHANNEL AND I DON'T SEE IT IMPROVING!
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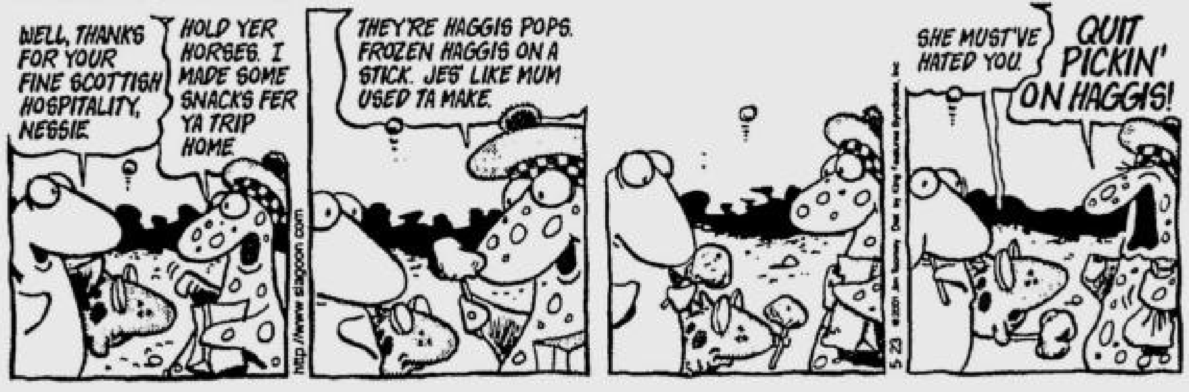
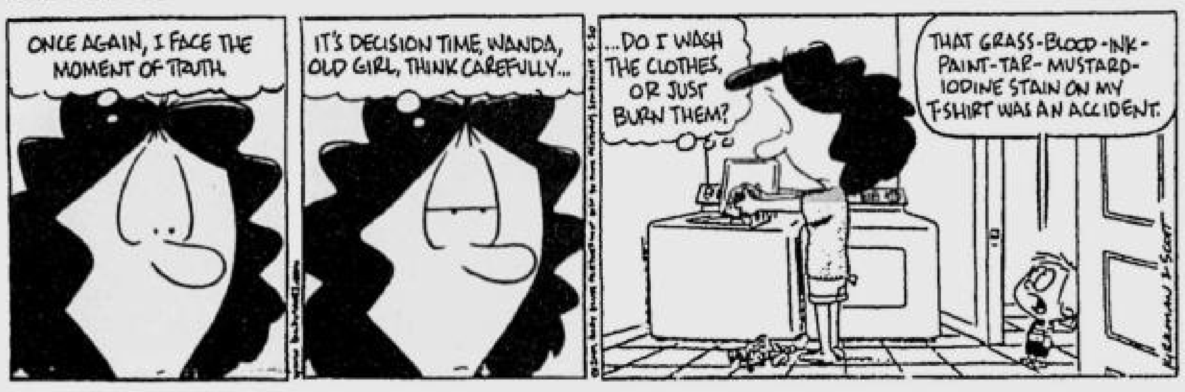
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR FINE SCOTTISH HOSPITALITY, NESSIE.
HOLD YER HORSES. I MADE SOME SNACKS FER YA TRIP HOME.
THEY'RE HAGGIS POPS. FROZEN HAGGIS ON A STICK. JES' LIKE MUM USED TA MAKE.
SHE MUST'VE HATED YOU.
QUIT PICKIN' ON HAGGIS!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


ONCE AGAIN, I FACE THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.
IT'S DECISION TIME, WANDA, OLD GIRL, THINK CAREFULLY...
...DO I WASH THE CLOTHES, OR JUST BURN THEM?
THAT GRASS-BLOOD-INK-PAINT-TAR-MUSTARD-IODINE STAIN ON MY T-SHIRT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Captain Kangaroo, Julia Duffy, Lorrie Morgan, Vera Wang, Isabelle Adjani, Tobey Maguire

Happy Birthday: You've been sitting back for too long, letting others grab all the rewards. It's time to promote yourself and your own ideas. This is a great period in your life to take advantage of all those opportunities. So speak up and don't be shy. You'll get the support you're looking for. Your numbers: 12, 15, 27, 35, 43, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on your work and forget trying to change things at a personal level. You will only frustrate yourself if you keep trying to make someone who is unsure of his or her feelings love you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to let your intense love of life flow in new directions. Get involved in fun activities that challenge and excite you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect to have problems at home. This is not the best time to confront loved ones, but you can listen to their complaints and try to ease their worries.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You stand a good chance of meeting someone special through the company you keep. Don't be afraid to go out on a blind date. Feel confident in your actions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should get a pat on your back for a job well done. This is the time to concentrate on your work and your ability to make cash. Don't hold back; reach for the top.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be sensitive, but that's no reason to use emotional blackmail on the people around you. Sort out your problems and take the blame if it is your fault.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your quick wit and charm will enhance your reputation at work, but the ones you love and live with will see only the impatient, aggressive, know-it-all side. Try to be nice, and control your anger.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Partners will come into your life if you get involved with groups that have a cause. You need to get to know someone who can supply you with all kinds of new challenges.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should be concentrating on your position at work. Use your versatility to come up with unique ideas. You stand a good chance of getting your own way by talking to the right people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need an outlet to get your mind off pressing matters. Take time to be with your family. Get involved in group activities involving those close to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll make good deals if you pay close attention to what's being offered. Investments made today will pay bigger dividends than you anticipate. Be creative in your financial choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be in a passionate mood. Romantic attractions will develop if you are actively involved in a group. If you see someone you're attracted to, by all means introduce yourself.

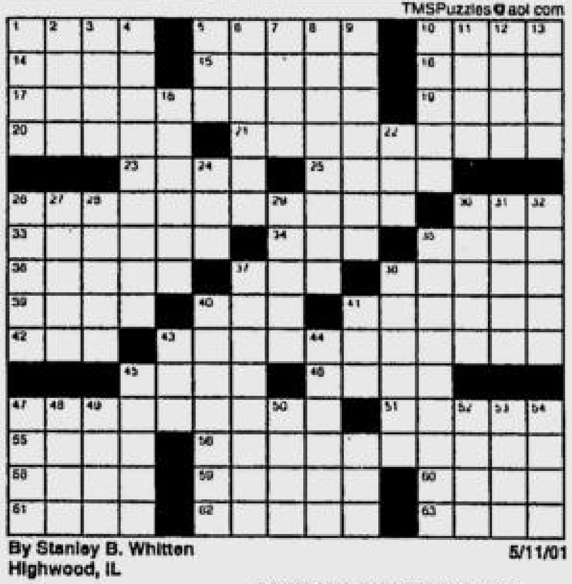
Birthday Baby: You are fun-loving and energetic as well as cautious and practical. This makes for an interesting combination that should result in lifelong success.

DAILY CROSSWORD

THE Daily Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Carpenter's groove
5 Principles
10 Curmudgeon
14 Tel __-Jaffa
15 Recumbent
16 Corker
17 Formed an interlocking joint
19 Slaughter of baseball
20 Pitchers
21 Cuts off
23 Lean-to
25 Windows image
26 "Apocalypse Now" star
30 Rent-sign abbr.
33 Hold together
34 Mil. training course
35 Make well
36 Persuade
37 Take to court
38 Please, in Aachen
39 Sea eagles
40 90 degrees from vert.
41 Increment
42 Comprehend
43 Clasping device
45 Sidekicks
46 Mine entrance
47 One banking money
51 Joe or Maria
55 Asian sea
56 Con game
58 Bit of dialogue
59 Farm measures
60 Ireland
61 Cools down
62 Tractor manufacturer
63 Slumgullion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By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

5/11/01

DOWN
1 Miami's county
2 Solemnly swear
3 Seedy bar
4 Exceeds
5 Mother Nature's support grp.?
6 Groups of three
7 Celeste or Ian
8 Like some bathing suits
9 Entices
10 Just washed
11 Litter's littlest
12 Lotion additive
13 Old-time kiss
18 Casual top
22 2000 lbs.
24 Opposite of WSW
26 Knights' weapons
27 Idolize
28 Avignon's river
29 Maiden in Koranic paradise
30 Backward: suff.
31 San __, CA
32 Glossy
35 Port departure times
37 Longest or shortest day
38 Favorable
40 Copter landing site
41 Father
43 Pops
44 Vocation
45 Ends of the Earth?
47 "Persistence of Memory" painter
48 __ the Red
49 Section of glass
50 Monster of myth
52 Londoner, for short
53 Inside diameter
54 Pour out
57 Full of: suff.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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D	Y	E	■	E	S	T	E	S	■	S	T	A	N	S

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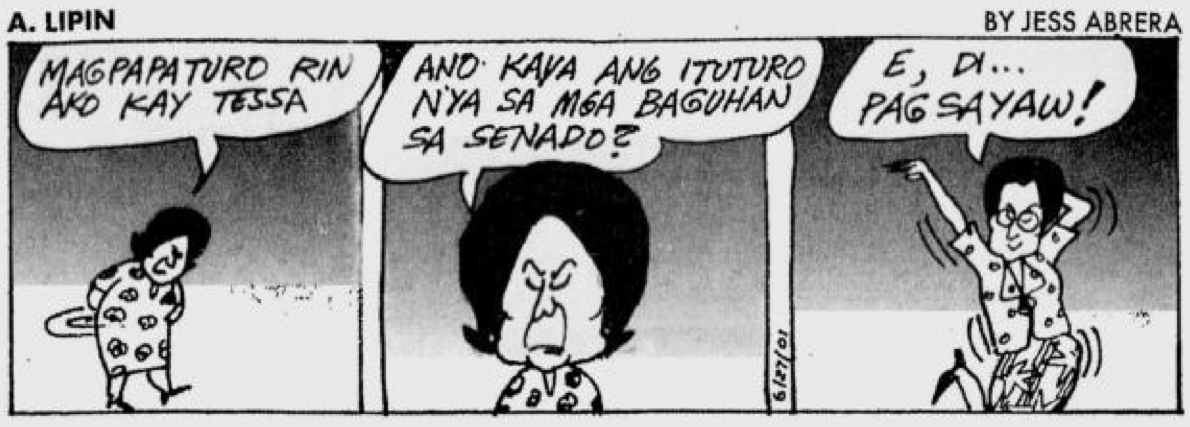
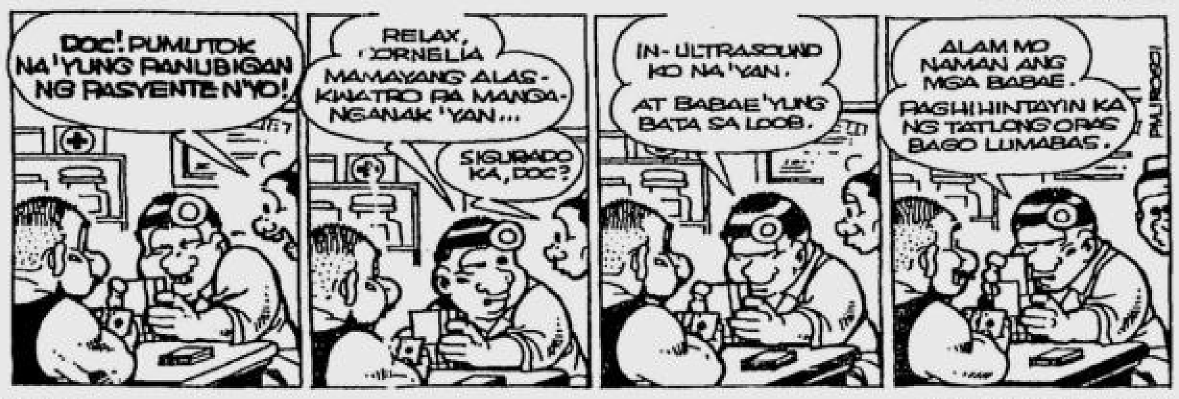
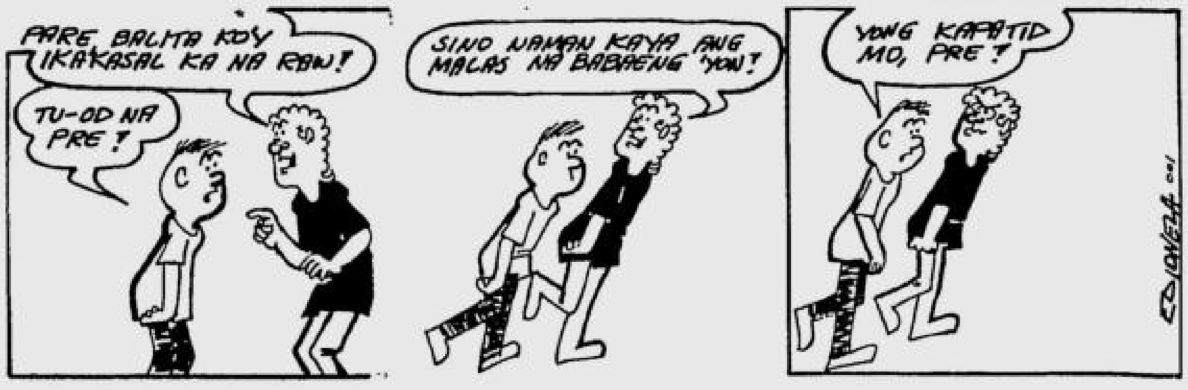
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MAGPAPATURO RIN AKO KAY TESSA
ANO KAYA ANG ITUTURO N'YA SA MGA BAGUHAN SA SENADO?
6/27/01
E, DI... PAG SAYAW!

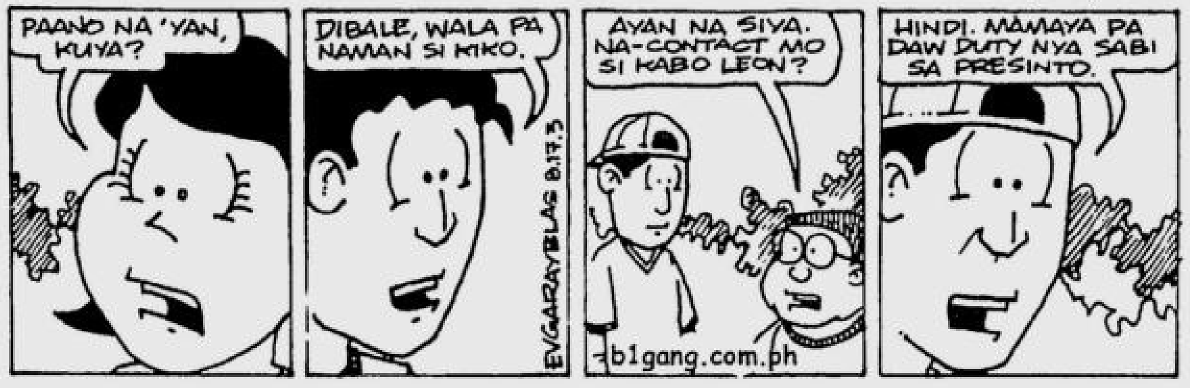
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


DOC! PUMUTOK NA 'YUNG PANUBIGAN NG PASYENTE N'YO!
RELAX, CORNELIA MAMAYANG ALAS-KWATRO PA MANGANGANAK 'YAN...
SIGURADO KA, DOC?
IN-ULTRASOUND KO NA 'YAN.
AT BABAE 'YUNG BATA SA LOOB.
ALAM MO NAMAN ANG MGA BABAE.
PAGHIHINTAYIN KA NG TATLONG ORAS BAGO LUMABAS.

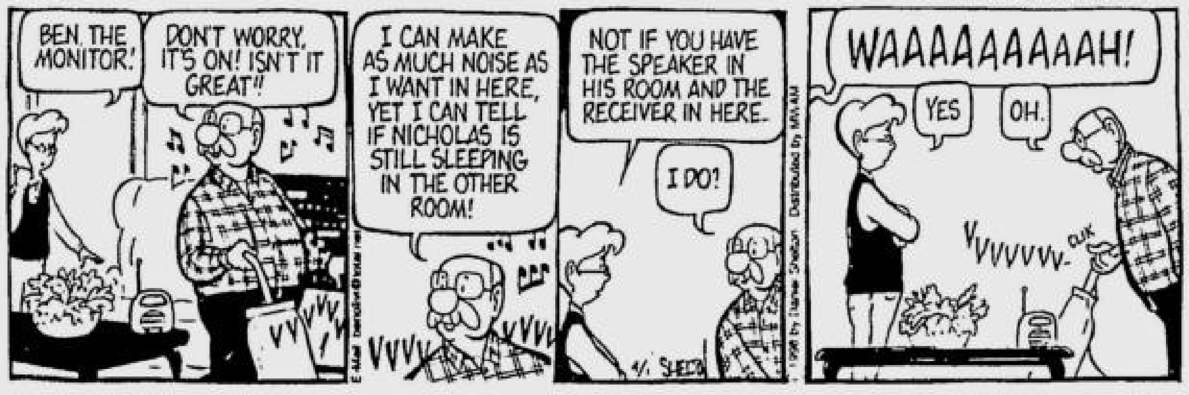
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE BALITA KO'Y IKAKASAL KA NA RAW!
TU-OD NA PRE!
SINO NAMAN KAYA ANG MALAS NA BABAENG 'YON!
YONG KAPATID MO, PRE!
DIONELA

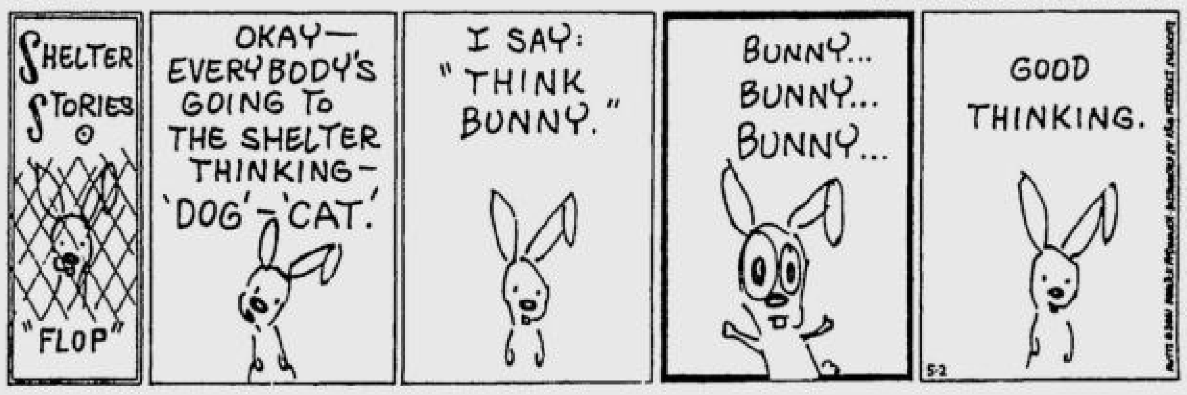
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PAANO NA 'YAN, KUYA?
DIBALE, WALA PA NAMAN SI KIKO.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.17.3
AYAN NA SIYA. NA-CONTACT MO SI KABO LEON?
b1gang.com.ph
HINDI. MAMAYA PA DAW DUTY NYA SABI SA PRESINTO.

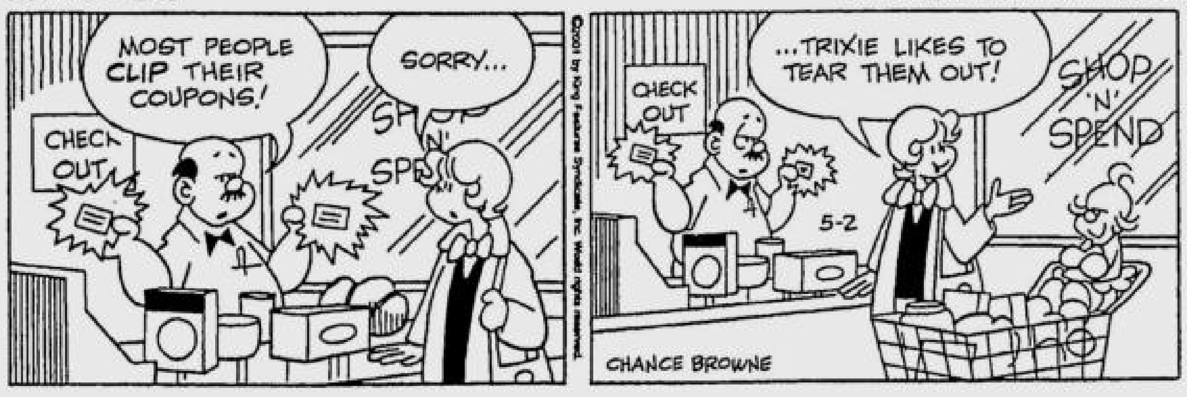
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, THE MONITOR!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ON! ISN'T IT GREAT!!
I CAN MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS I WANT IN HERE, YET I CAN TELL IF NICHOLAS IS STILL SLEEPING IN THE OTHER ROOM!
NOT IF YOU HAVE THE SPEAKER IN HIS ROOM AND THE RECEIVER IN HERE.
I DO!
WAAAAAAAAAH!
YES
OH.
CLIK

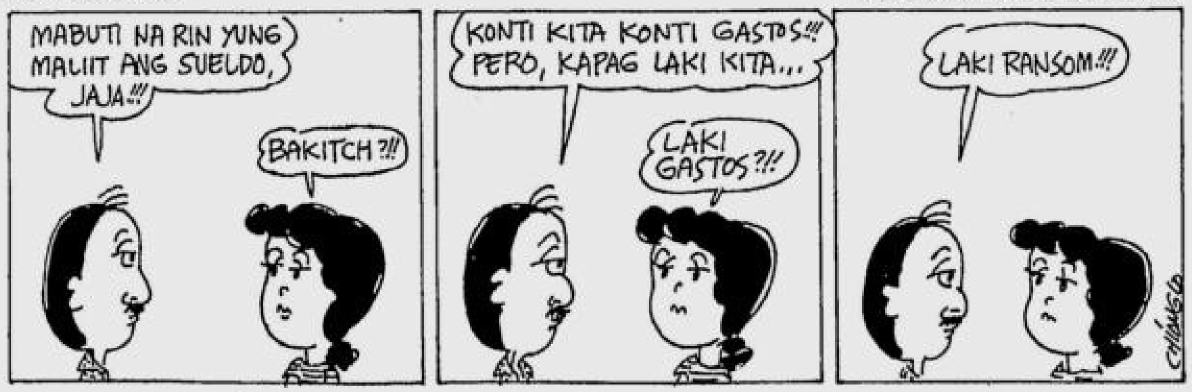
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"FLOP"
OKAY— EVERYBODY'S GOING TO THE SHELTER THINKING- 'DOG'-'CAT.'
I SAY: "THINK BUNNY."
BUNNY... BUNNY... BUNNY...
GOOD THINKING.
5-2

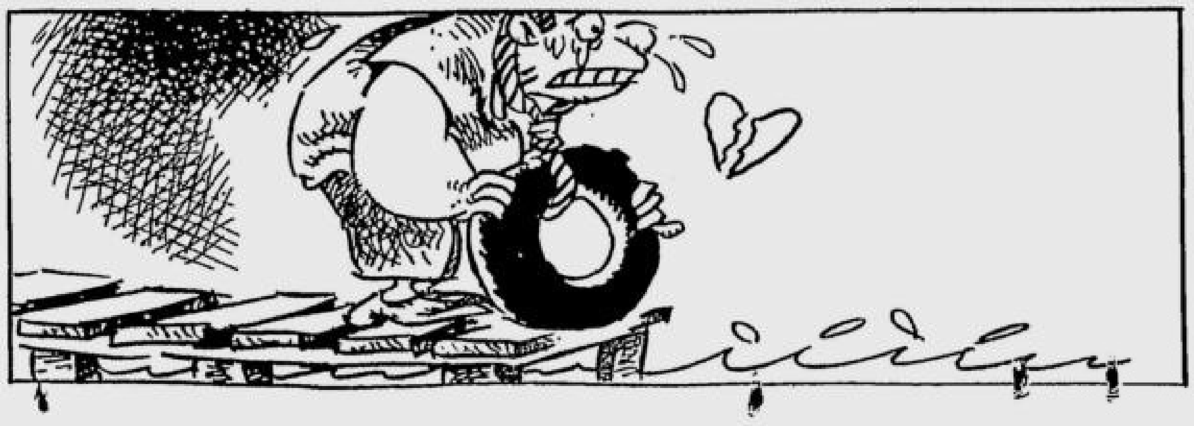
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CHECK OUT
MOST PEOPLE CLIP THEIR COUPONS!
SORRY...
SHOP 'N' SPEND
...TRIXIE LIKES TO TEAR THEM OUT!
5-2
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MABUTI NA RIN YUNG MALIIT ANG SUELDO, JAJA!!!
BAKITCH?!!
KONTI KITA KONTI GASTOS!!! PERO, KAPAG LAKI KITA...
LAKI GASTOS?!!
LAKI RANSOM!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



MOVING-OUT SALE

Momento Greenbelt is moving out with a big sale! There will be a lot of good buys with up to 70 percent off. Get 10-20 percent off on selected regular items and additional 10 percent off on all existing sale items. Get hold of fabulous ready-to-wear, shoes and accessories for men and women with the biggest price off. Saying goodbye is not for long because you can visit the store at its new home at Cinderella Glorietta 3. Hurry! Promo ends on July 31.

Skin-care tour in schools and malls

THE POND'S Institute is undertaking an education program on skin care around the country.

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Recently, the Pond's Institute joined various schools in welcoming the students to a new schoolyear.

In orientation sessions in different schools, Monica Tobias, the first Pond's Institute spokesperson, spoke in front of capacity crowds about skin care.

Monica also answered several questions from the audience on basic skin-care regimen, proper acne prevention and managing oily skin. Given away were free samples of Pond's Facial Wash, Pond's Cold Cream and Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Cream.

The Pond's Institute will hold its skin-care tour in other schools and different malls.

"We are extending our successful Pond's Grand Mall Tour to reach out to more consumers," said Ivy Pineda, assistant brand manager of Pond's.

The other mall tours are slated on June 29-July 2, Ayala Glorietta; July 5-8, Robinsons Place in Manila; July 12-15, SM Pampanga; July 19-22, SM Bacoor; July 26-29, SM Manila; Aug. 2-7, SM Megamall; Aug. 9-12, SM North Edsa; Aug. 16-19, LCC Mall Legaspi, Bicol; and Aug. 24-27, Gaisano Mall CDO.

Call 588-7888 or e-mail ponds.institute-ph@unilever.com.

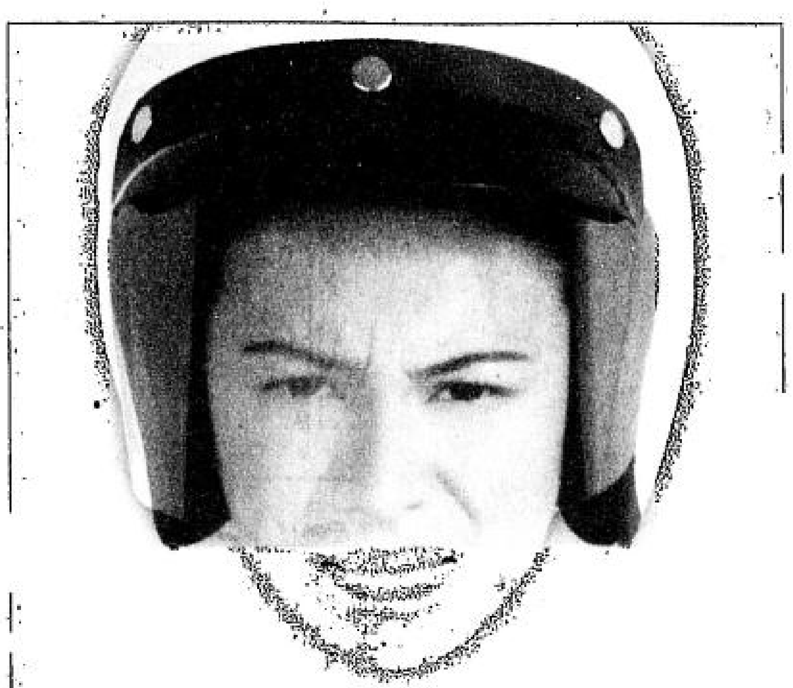
Petron holds art contest on Pinoy games

PATINTERO. Tumbang Preso. Luksong Tinik. Taguan. These indigenous Pinoy games will come to life as Petron Corporation launches the First National Art Competition for college students and students in a museum-based or tutorial class. Six winning entries can win up to P50,000 each. Representative schools of the six first prizewinners will likewise be given computer sets.

This year's theme, "Lumang Laro, Bagong Likha," will focus on interesting field games as participating young artists render their interpretations of long-forgotten Filipino indigenous games.

As an institution that supports the development of Filipino youth in sports and cultural activities, Petron provides a rare opportunity for young artists to learn about these games and interpret them in canvass. The winning entries will also be printed in the prestigious 2002 Petron Wall Calendar.

Application is going on and interested participants may obtain registration forms until July 20 from their respective colleges and universities and at the nearest Petron gas station. Visit the Project Secretariat Office, c/o Studio 5 Designs, corner 28 Paseo de Roxas and Jupiter Streets, Bel-Air Village, Makati City, or call 895-3971 or 890-9318, or e-mail studio5dessigns @yahoo.com.



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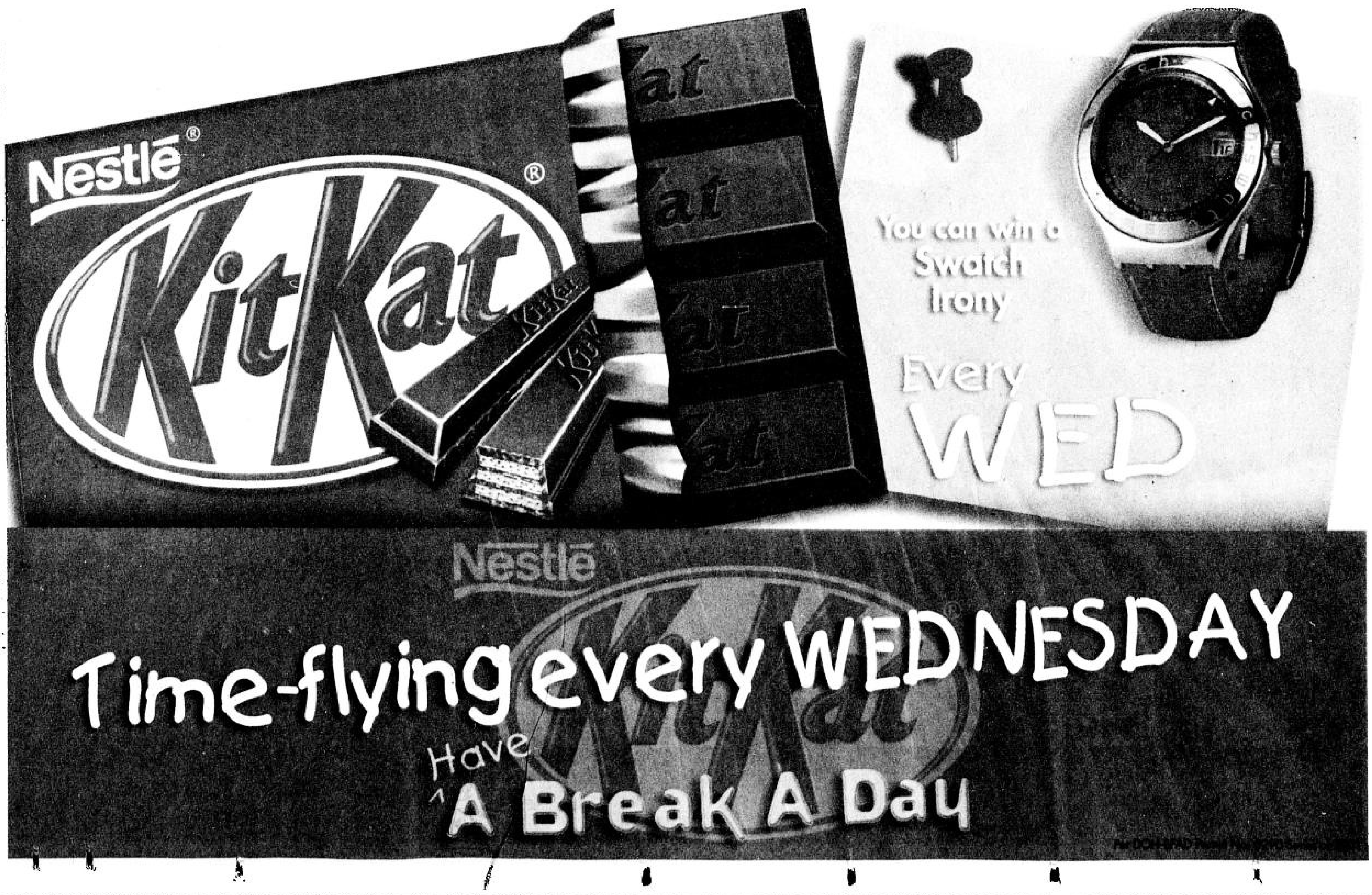

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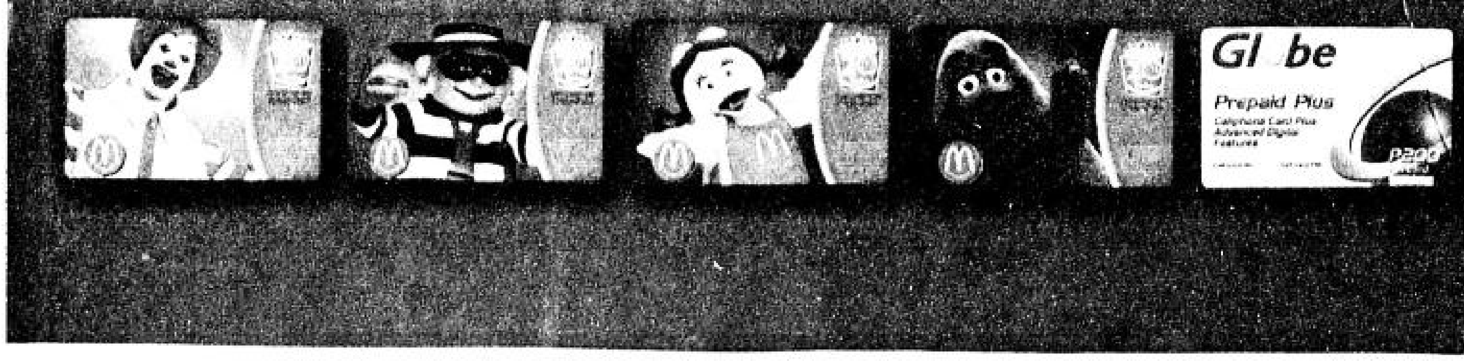
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This music genre is more than just a small rack beside the new releases at Tower Records

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That indie feeling

By Maui V. Reyes
2bu! Correspondent

"THERE are so many definitions of indie music," says Quark Henares, one of the DJs of NU 107's "Not Radio." "See, there are those artists that release their albums independently, and people call that indie music. But then there are those artists who play indiepop, and pop isn't corny to these people, pop is like, cool for them."

And so goes the world of indie music. Far from your Blink 182 records and Celine Dion ballad collection, there's a certain kind of genre that's lurking around somewhere, dying to be heard, but not yearning to go "mainstream." For one, these artists aren't "sellouts." Well, maybe not in their own genre. They talk about bands and musicians you would never hear on the radio: Rainer Maria, Fugazi, Juliana Hatfield and Pavement. They are the ones who fill the hole-in-the-wall bar Mayric's during "Buzz Night." They cut demos from time to time, and flex their love for music by branching out to different bands, exploring different kinds of music and fusing them into one song. They need an output for their influences, and end up playing in different bands to satisfy their hunger. As one of the bands puts it, "it's a way of life."

Indie music is more than just a small rack beside the new releases at Tower Records. It's also more than the one-hour "Not Radio" sessions on NU 107.5. Local independent label Definition Records and pinoycentral.com put together a compilation of indiepop and indierock called "Mutual Admiration Society," which is the first album to be released under Definition. The album boasts 15 tracks from nine different bands, all fresh faces who would rather have the music be heard than their faces plastered on magazine covers.

"[The term] 'indiepop' was coined by Mike Alway, the founder of a record company that released these bands that had this distinct guitar sound. Kind of like New Wave. Guitar pop. When [these bands] sign on major record labels, they become New Wave... but indiepop *pa rin sila*. Until now *ganoon pa rin naman, eh*," says Dale Marquez of Apple Orchard and Soft Pillow Kisses.

Curious to find out just what indiepop is all about, we got three bands off the album, went to Freedom Bar in Anonas, and interviewed them about their music and advice for indiepop wannabes.

Apple Orchard

Who they are: Ryan (guitars, vocals) and Dale (bass, keyboards) Marquez.

What's with the name: "Apple Orchard" is a song by one of Ryan's favorite bands. "It's also the name of the concert of 'Field Mice' (that's a band)," Dale points out.

Beginnings: Apple Orchard is actually a side project—the brothers made a demo that was picked for the "Mutual Admiration Society" compilation. "We started doing demos, with guitar and some cheesy drumbeats. It wasn't really that serious," says Dale. "When we heard we were going to be on the album, we decided that [the demo] didn't sound so good, so we added some bass."

What indie music is: "There are a lot of misconceptions. If you're really into indie music—like us, we've been into this kind of music since, I don't know, 10 years ago? Grade school? We started listening to New Wave bands back then, and that was, like, the '80s, right? And even before there was the term 'indie.' *Ngayon lang siya lumabas*... so now if you play folk rock and you release it independently, you're called indie. *Kasi*, there's this certain sound to

THAT/ p.D2

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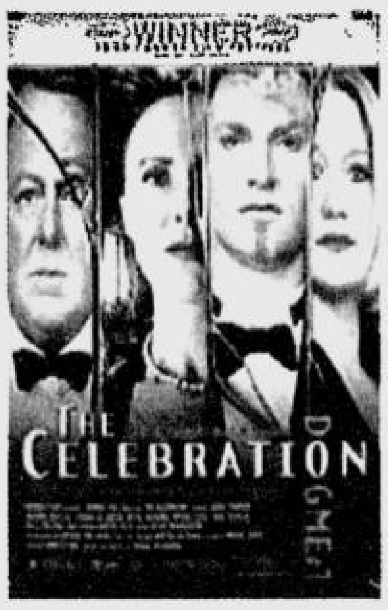
Independent Filmmaking 101

YOU are the president of the "Halloween" Fans' Club in the Philippines, or you're used to buying those cool videos on Amazon such as "Sex, Lies and Videotape" and "Dancer in the Dark," or you endlessly brag about Kevin Smith and his "Clerks." You also totally abhor "that '90s version of 'Godzilla'" because it was a stupid advertisement from start to end.

Congratulations, you have the indie spirit in you! But before you continue and say, hey, I know my Lees and Tarantinos, I'll let you in on some information. There's more to indie movies than "Pulp Fiction" and "Trainspotting."

Indie films are the real director's cut. They are movies out of the studio mainstream



Outsider

According to Mowelfund director Nick Deocampo, an "indie" or independent film is any film produced outside of the mainstream film industry. "Independent filmmaking creates new grounds," he says. "[It has] a sense of radicalism, not necessarily political, that shakes you from your average, mediocre frame of mind."

Indies are almost the exact opposite of commercial films. Unlike most of the films we get to watch in movie houses that usually avoid provocative subjects, indies deal with such issues as homosexuality, poverty, or politics. "*Ang* subject *hindi* commercial, unlike *sa* mainstream," says Roxlee, who is considered the wild genius of Pinoy indie cinema. There are also usually less characters that are played by mostly unknown actors. Add to that, independent cinema is dominated by short films like animation and documentaries because it's cheaper.

The history of independent cinema is not well documented because the medium is often considered an elitist art form. It's said to have started in the US during the '40s when theaters began to be privatized. Basic independent filmmaking then was defined as any producer's work made outside of the industry mainstream and sold to theaters for shows. (This practice, though, is still alive, with the success of pseudo-independent studios such as Miramax and Fox Lighthouse.)

In the '60s, 16-mm films were created. This enabled amateur filmmakers outside the film industry to create their own films. Because of the radical times, political films were in vogue. Alongside names like Andy Warhol, Stan Brockage and Maya Deren, there was one Filipino filmmaker named Henry Francia whose film, "On My Way to India Consciousness I Reached China," was shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

JON Red's "Trip"

Here, it's a completely different story. The history of cinema in the Philippines dates back to 1897, when the first films were shown at No. 12, Interior, Escolta, Manila. The country was one of the premier film exhibition sites in the world at the start of the 20th century. You could actually watch the Lumiere Brothers' travelogues, DW Griffith's "Intolerance" and Thomas Alva Edison's iconoclastic "Advance of Kansas Volunteers in Caloocan." The birth of Philippine cinema would soon follow in 1919 with Jose Nepomuceno's "Dalagang Bukid."

KHAVN de la Cruz's "The Twelve"

Before the birth of Pinoy indie, the Western world was caught up in avant-garde, underground and political movements. This had an influence on local cinema. The first generation of indie filmmakers included the likes of Lamberto Avellana, Benedicto Pinga and Ferde Grofe. Supported by the National Media Production Center (now known as Philippine Information Agency), they were able to create world-class material. Avellana's "El Legado" and "La Campana de Baler" and Grofe's "Soul of a Fortress" were recognized abroad even before full-length features were acclaimed in Asia.

But Deocampo also explains that there was a staggering loss of support for the early wave of indies. "They remained in the ghetto," he explains. The circle of independent filmmakers was considered exclusive. "You could be 'killed' immediately."

During martial law, indie documentaries became propaganda materials and the movie industry became an instrument of escapism. Although there was short-lived support for the local movie industry, which led to the creation of the controversial Manila Film Center and the Metro Manila Film Festival, the independent cinema faded further into obscurity along with most of the commercial films.

Indie films surfaced once more with the arrival of production groups like Mowelfund. There was also Eric de Guia, a.k.a. Kidlat Tahimik, whose "Mababangong Bangungot (Perfumed Nightmares)" received international recognition. The post-martial law radicalism brought about the beginning of the second generation of indie filmmakers. Although distributed by movie companies, Lino Brocka's films were self-produced by CineManila, a production outfit which he established in 1974 together with several artists and investors. Mowelfund trained the now-acclaimed filmmakers like Raymond Red, Roxlee, and the Agbayani and the Alcazaren brothers. Their works would later become "classics" that inspire today's aspiring filmmakers.

At present, there is a growing consciousness regarding this specialized field. Raymond Red's "Anino," which won the Palme d'Or for short film during last year's Cannes Film Festival, have many thinking we've reached the Golden Age of Philippine Independent Cinema.

Camera . . .

There are different styles and techniques in indie filmmaking. Roxlee explains that in "traditional" indie filmmaking, you have a minimum crew of six for 35-mm films and three for 16 mm. The process is expensive (a 16 mm's one minute would approximately cost a thousand bucks) and postproduction is usually labor-intensive, although indie filmmakers are spared from bills by funding groups such as the Goethe Institute, Kodak Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

A cheaper alternative is digital indie filmmaking, which has been gaining ground in the country for some years now. Video has gained respect after the success of films such as Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez's "The Blair Witch Project" and Thomas Vinterberg's "The Celebration." Kidlat Tahimik also recognizes the use of videos. Khavn de la Cruz, who is one of the more recognized digital indie filmmakers in the country, explains that digital filmmaking is a free-form process, just as long as you have a camera. While some would want to follow traditional rules, digital indie filmmakers avoid them most of the time.

Action!

So now you have your finished material. How do we cross over from personal belonging to voice-being-heard? There has been a long but unnoticed history of festivals and annual events in the local indie scene. Back in the early '80s, the University of the Philippines organized The First Manila Short Film Festival. This annual awards event lasted until 1985. Simultaneously, the Marcos regime organized its own festival. Led by Imee Marcos, the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines (ECP) hosted The Short Film Festival that lasted until the Edsa Revolution. Eventually, ECP

INDEPENDENT/ p.D3

Look for these babies

Foreign Indies
John Cassavetes' "Woman under the Influence"
Michael Haneke's "Funny Games"
Richard Linklater's "Slacker"
Todd Solondz's "Welcome to the Dollhouse"
Steven Soderbergh's "Kafka"
Wong Kar Wai's "Fallen Angel," "Chungking Express"
Thomas Vinterberg's "The Celebration"

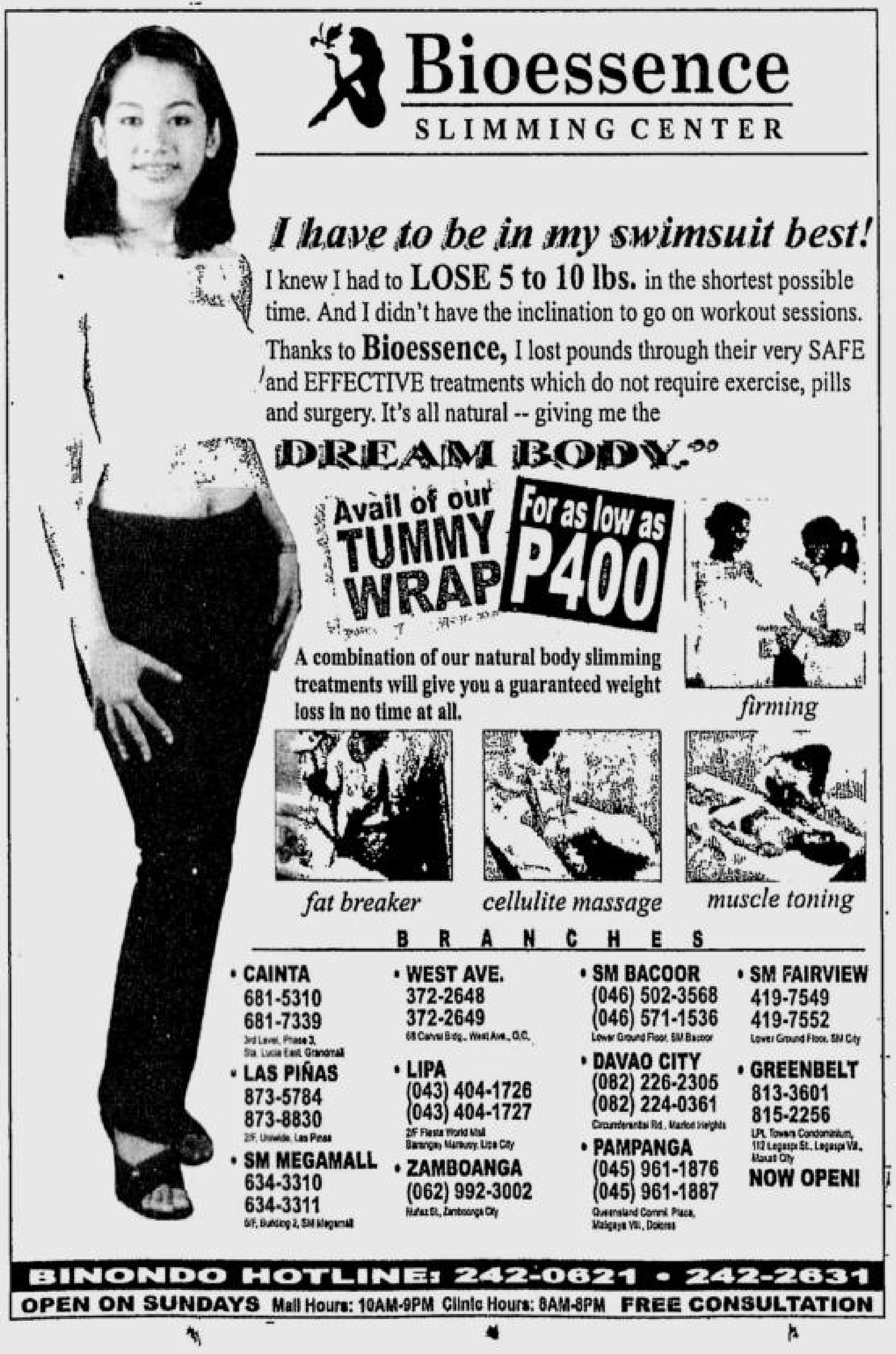
Local Indies
Kidlat Tahimik's "Mababangong Bangungot"
Nick Deocampo's "Oliver," "The Sex Warriors and The Samurai"
Roxlee and Ted Arago's "Tronong Puti"
The Alcazaren Brothers' "Juan de la Cruz"
Raymond Red's "A Study for the Skies"
Joey Agbayani's "Kidlat"
Jon Red's "Trip"
The Agbayani Brothers' "Ang Bantay"
Roxlee and Monlee's "Tito's Wedding"
Danny Red's "Papag"
RA Rivera's "Chicken Soup 2 (Nerd World Cinema)"
Khavn de la Cruz's "The Twelve"

So you want to be an indie filmmaker

Study. If you can't go to communication school and take up, say mass communication or film, try joining film workshops by institutions like Mowelfund or CCP. "The source of independent cinema in the country would really be the schools," says Nick.

Prepare yourself. Pour out your passion for film. Brainstorm. Most indie films don't use special effects— it's mainly their content that is at issue. If you're suddenly drained of ideas, read as many books or watch as many movies (even cheesy local films can provide lessons).

Be resourceful. If you really have the desire to be a filmmaker, look for ways to become one. If you don't have the money for films or videos, borrow from friends or beg for your *tito*'s shortends. Roxlee admits, "*Ako noon sa* bond paper. *Minsan puwede na rin sa pinunit na papel.*"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That indie feeling

(From page D1)

indie. It's really hard to categorize indiepop *kasi*. It's like a big umbrella, *eh*... there are so many different sounds. To really understand the music, you have to be really into it, you have to try to understand it."

Fusion of talents: Ryan may write the lyrics, but as he puts it, "When it comes to recording, *marami nang* ideas from both of us." He also writes mostly about love and relationships. "Mushy kind of stuff," he says, laughing.

Don't expect an album too soon: As Dale points out, it's hard to release an indie album in this country since the industry isn't too open. "There's no market here. We're aware of that... we'll just make more demos, submit them to Definition Records. It's hard to take risks here... maybe we'll send them to different countries, *kasi* it's really not that big a market here." Ryan agrees. "You have more chances overseas."

What, no chicks and money? If you're looking for babes and moolah, this isn't the kind of music for you— get signed with a major record label instead. "If you're going to release independent stuff, don't expect profit," Ryan says. "Don't quit your day job."

"It's the passion for music, that's what keeps us going," Dale admits. "If you're really into music, you'll keep going even if no one's going to buy your stuff."

Look at the bright side: Being in an indie band has its pros, too. "You can write songs about whatever you like, without having someone tell you what to do," Ryan says. "There's artistic freedom."

Colour Contest

The players: Ulysses John Roque (drums), Jefrey Jacob (keyboards and horns), AJ Domingo (bass, backing vocals), Monsano "Panch" Dominguez (guitars and sitars) and Richard Olaguera (vocals and guitars).

SOFT Pillow Kisses

How they were formed: Back in 1996 they already had a band, and went through different band names, even trying Japanese names. "We decided to come up with a '60s-sounding band, which is Colour Contest," says Panch. "Our former bassist came up with the name. It doesn't really have any significant meaning," says Richard. "Although we love colors."

Quirky indiepop: "Indie music is not an abbreviation of independent music. It's a totally different thing. It's wide. Bossa nova, you can call that indie. Indie is a genre. The sound is an eclectic music of Bossa Nova, the '80s sound, New Wave. Quirky pop."

On the lowdown: Richard says one of the things that separate indie music from mainstream tunes is that, aside from the arrangements, indie doesn't get airplay. "You can't hear indie music on NU 107," he says. But they do plan to release an album. Richard writes lyrics and music, and confesses that most of the songs are fictional. "They're mostly about love, fascination, love lost, collapsing relationships... romantic stuff." They're also not scared of "finding our songs in jukeboxes, or on Vid-ok," since they're all praises for Definition Records and believe they wouldn't be distributed that way.

Best gig: At the Philippine Trade Center, where Pinoycentral hosted different bands in the concert, "Mutual Admiration Society."

Move with the music: Their advice to wannabe indie bands? "Just move on, play music," AJ advises. "Send demos abroad. Indie here in this country is really struggling."

Soft Pillow Kisses

Composed of: Allan (guitars, backing vocals), Carl (vocals), AJ (guitars, backing vocals), Lara (bass), Dale (keyboards and provider of moral support), and Gilbert (drums).

THAT/ p.D3

Days of sharing with kids of cancer ward

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU Correspondent

Cancer can be licked with the Big C—care

MOST people believe that cancer is just for old people. Well, the hard truth is that kids can have it, too. I had never really thought of that until I stumbled upon it during a class exposure. As a requirement for my Community Involvement class, I spent 16 hours as a volunteer for the Philippine Children's Medical Center. That started it all. I fell so in love with all the children that I decided to devote all the Wednesdays of May caring for them.

Kythe

My friends and I joined Kythe, a group formed in 1992 by Icar Castro and Girlie Garcia to address the psychosocial needs of pediatric cancer patients and their families. The group became a nongovernment organization in 1998.

Kythe is derived from a Scottish word; it means healing through simple sharing and togetherness. This is what we do every Wednesday. We share what we have by simply being there and playing with the kids.

The Tumor Clinic of the East Avenue Medical Center serves as the setting and headquarters of Kythe. Part of the group's commitment is giving chemotherapy free of charge. This is because Tina Puno and other volunteers help in soliciting funds for the foundation.

Cancer + Kythe = fun

Just from the window design that will greet you before you enter, you will surely feel the spirit of cheer emanating in the air. The smiling faces of the Tumor Clinic staff led by pediatric oncologist Dr. Victoria Abesamis make chemotherapy seem like a soft breeze. The playroom is every child's dream come true. Toys of different shapes and sizes for every little boy and girl can be found everywhere. Books for every age are kept in the bookshelves nearby. Everything every child wants is right there.

Kythe has a variety of activities to entertain the kids. The kids set to have chemotherapy can play in the playroom. They can do arts and crafts, sometimes cooking and baking. Kiddie parties are the children's favorites. This is where generous donors sponsor parties for the kids. The children enjoy games, prizes and everyone's favorite, food. Children who are confined are visited and given bedside play activities like coloring or reading books. They also have outings but that depends on their sponsors.

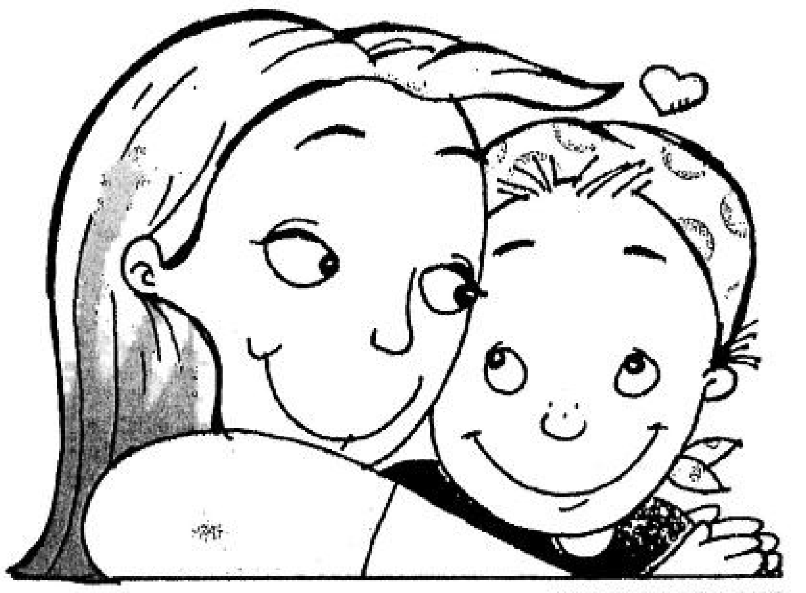
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Sharing

Child life specialist Allan Cabisaga heads the team of volunteers who interact with the children. I would always remember these words that he said during the orientation: "We come here to fill their needs, not our needs."

Regular volunteers Justine Sababan and Cynthia Manzanares talk about their lives as volunteers. Justine came to the Tumor Clinic to check her options as a nurse. Just like most volunteers, she came to play with the children and suddenly found herself going there every week. Cynthia, on the other hand, just attended a kiddie party thrown by her group. She saw how the children were and felt that it was her obligation to help.

Justine is now a popular figure to the kids. It seems very natural for her to establish trust and confidence in the children. Cynthia, now a parent-volunteer, helps by counseling the parents in the support group. Some parent-volunteers are parents of children who died of cancer. They believe that it is their duty and obligation to take care of other children who are suffering the same sickness that took their children.

Bald little angels

If it weren't for their balding heads, one would think that these kids were normal and without any disease. Lively, cheerful and charming, that's what these children are. During my weekly visits, I was fortunate enough to meet three very special youngsters. Three newly diagnosed 4-year-olds who share a common passion for life—to survive.

Lemmy Kravitz and the two elves

He's Lenny Kravitz—only cooler and younger. Lemon or Lemmy, our little boy wonder, is full of surprises. Probably the most spirited of all the kids, Lemon loves to play games. Parents Armando and Salome Galvez are very proud of their youngest son. After what seemed endless nights of worry, they can now say that Lemon is developing quite well after chemotherapy. They also said that the support group provided vital information in understanding their son's illness. They even said that Lemon couldn't wait for the next chemo treatment. Somehow the time he spends in play and the people he meets masked the harsh side effects of chemotherapy.

Just like two elves, Charisse and Jefthy made their way to our hearts in their own modest little ways. Charisse can make anyone's day with her big brown eyes. Jefthy, on the other hand, can stir up joy in everyone with his sweet innocent smile.

Everybody would probably agree with me in saying that Charisse and Jefthy are the sweetest kids. Mothers Florita Cloa and Luz Pinca are of the same mind in saying that Kythe helps the child cope with his sickness. They add that the volunteers help the caregivers by lessening the burden of caring for the child all throughout the treatment.

Meaning

I remember my philosophy professor saying that we are always in search of that experience of being alive. I take that as our undying search for our purpose and place in this world. But sometimes we are looking at all the wrong places.

I have learned so much from the short time I spent with the children. Unlike most of us, some kids die even before they have the chance to experience the high and lows of life. We sometimes overlook the little pleasures in life, the real things that matter the most. We think that the real meaning of life comes with big miracles, big blessings. All of that is just the tip of the iceberg. It's the little things that makes our lives complete. The best thing about being alive is not how much money you have or how much you have achieved in your chosen career. It is the time spent and shared with all the persons you love.

I can't say that I have found my meaning here. All I know is that partly I have come to know my meaning and purpose through these kids and the harsh reality of cancer.

Independent Filmmaking 101

THE FIRST EXCITING FILM OF THE YEAR
a film by Wong Kar-Wai
fallen angels

(From page D2)

was abolished and all their materials were passed to the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Currently nurturing the local indie scene are a few distinct festivals and annual events. For local shorts, the CCP Gawad Sining recognizes amateur and professional filmmakers in their pursuit of independent filmmaking. Pelikula at Lipunan, which Mowelfund began in 1994, hosts classic Filipino films and has recently paid tribute to indie films. The Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino (Urian), showcases the best short films, while the Film Academy of the Philippines supports the best student films.

Roxlee hopes that in the future, there will be more theaters hosting indie works.

So, you really, *really* want to be a filmmaker?

The important element for independent filmmaking is being resourceful since you're on your own. According to Khavn, "*kung anong meron ka diyan, gamitin mo.*" Roxlee, on the other hand, emphasizes originality. "*Maging* original *ka. Gawin mong mas* Pinoy."

Cinema can speak a thousand languages and independent filmmaking is against speaking commercial language. It is a tool for personal expression, so why should we let others speak for ourselves? As Nick says, "Beyond the commercial industrial cinema lie absolutely limitless possibilities."

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JOB WELL DONE. Arnold Mina Balais with the organizers and participants of the Swim for a Limb project

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That indie feeling

(From page D2)

How the band got together: After going through lots of band names and lineups, Allan and Carl formed Soft Pillow Kisses. Dale, from Sonnet 56 (and Apple Orchard), is a recent addition on keyboards.

Name, please: "We wanted to have this really mushy, cheesy name," AJ explains. "We didn't like to conform."

"It's not a gay thing," Allan stresses. "But we like gay," he laughs.

Indie what? "Indie is a universal state of conviction of your own principles, when it comes to your musical preference, consistent with your lifestyle and attitude," says Lara, who wrote a paper in school about indie. Allan interjects that indie music "is in the blood."

Cebu rocks: Soft Pillow Kisses released a five-song EP in Cebu since they believed only Cebuanos deserved to hear the music. "Cebuanos are up-to-date with music. It's not like here in Manila, what was released two years ago is what's cool," says Allan. "In Cebu they're catching up. We sold all the albums," he looks at his bandmates and laughs. "Like, five copies?" AJ shakes his head. "Ten copies!" he says with conviction.

Heartbreak stories: Allan writes most of the songs, although he's quick to say everyone contributes to the effort. Carl writes mostly about heartbreak and similar experiences. Always the joker, Allan shares that what inspires him to write is "the ambiance of Manila. When you listen to the music, you'll hear *na napakamahal ko ang* Manila. Independent *na talagang mabubuhay! Parang sa* Recto… *napaka*-safe!" He's joking, we think.

Dancing with the music: In order to appreciate indie, you need an ear for the music. "For example, we can dance to *this* slow song, [as opposed to others who can't]," reasons Allan. "People think *napa*-mushy and lousy. It depends on the person, really." What separates indie from mainstream, according to them, is the "feel" of the music. "There's a rawness to indie music. It appeals to a select few," continues Allan. Dale agrees. "Indie music doesn't get airplay anywhere—radio, MTV, *wala talaga, eh*. It's up to the listener to search, investigate, explore. So that's why it's really hard to understand the music." What about "Not Radio"? "*Iba sa* 'Not Radio,' *eh, iba* ang preference *nila ng* indie, as in independent music interpretation *nila*. Like the term 'alternative'… indie used to be called alternative music, but now they call alternative the stuff they play on the radio. *Sa tingin nila*, corny *na* and word *na* 'alternative', so 'indie' *na lang sila*," says Allan. "It's too angsty. It should be about intelligence… love for the same sex." Again, he's joking.

APPLE Orchard

To understand what these bands are talking about, check out "The Mutual Admiration Society" under Definition Records and available at Tower Records. Want to get a closer view on indie music? Head over to Mayric's every third Sunday of the month (mark down July 15 on your calendars—these bands are playing that night) to witness "Buzz Night," where indie bands get together and share their music. Who knows, you just might be one of the very few who can truly appreciate great music.

NU 107.5's indie rock show "Not Radio" airs every Saturday at 9 p.m.

Special thanks to lawyer Ferdinand Casis and Charlene of Freedom Bar, 2/F Anonas Commercial Complex, No. 3 Anonas St., Project 3, QC

Cebu's X-man is a hero to the disabled and the able

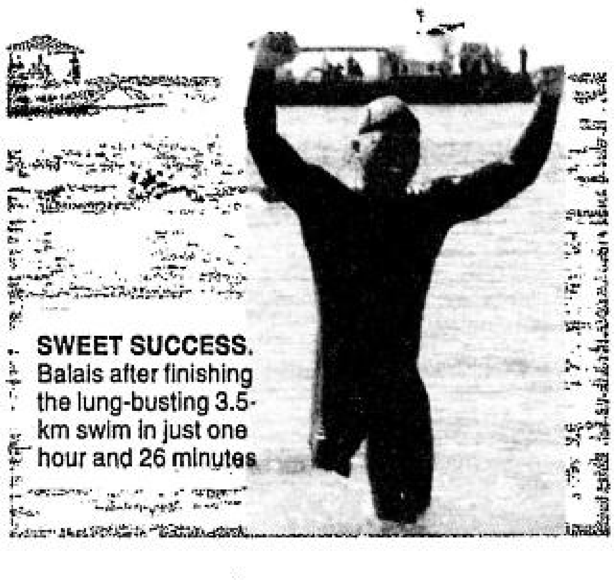
By Janice Y. Perez

Arnold Mina Balais is a one-legged superhero and role model for all of us two-legged weaklings

I AM not a comic book fan. My knowledge of animated action stars and superheroes is close to nil compared to that of my older brother who knows and sketches these flying, morphed characters by heart. But just because I am animé-illiterate doesn't mean I don't think about these powerful entities. In fact, I have a favorite superhero, someone who I've always looked up to, and even had the chance of meeting personally. Oh, and guess what? He's 100-percent human.

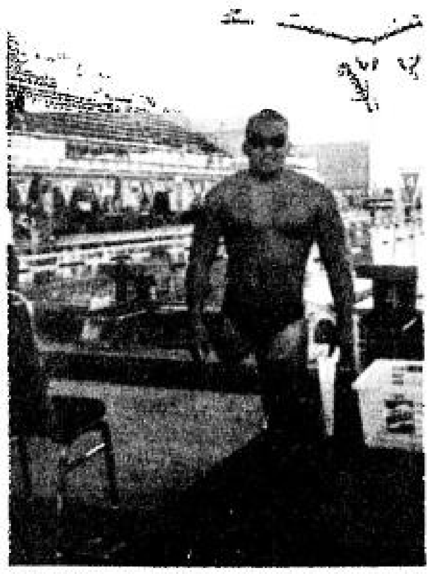
The first time I saw my superhero, he was lifting a heavy barbell with such ease. Well, nothing unusual about lifting weights, I mean a superhero's got to buff those muscles like any other guy. Half an hour later I saw him scale a 20-ft wall at the climbing gym adjacent to the PRT gym where he worked out earlier. He was climbing the third wall with utter deftness that I hardly noticed the supernatural thing about him. It took me some more minutes to realize that my newfound idol had only one leg.

Arnold Mina Balais, 27, is an amputee in the right leg above the knee. He had always been fond of sports when he still had both his legs. And then 12 years ago, when he was just a normal 15-year-old, the inevitable happened. He figured in a freak basketball accident that resulted in a severely infected fractured femur, which led to the amputation of his right leg. For an entire year after, Arnold was crushed. He could hardly believe that he was now left with one leg, which meant that engaging in sports would be close to impossible.


SWEET SUCCESS. Balais after finishing the lung-busting 3.5-km swim in just one hour and 26 minutes

Rebuilding

But as we all know, light shines at the end of every dark tunnel. Arnold was able to rebuild his life. Through the kindness of the God and the full support of family and friends, Arnold regained his self-esteem, and most important, his zest for life. Although he admits that there were times he would feel sad, he never allowed himself to wallow in self-pity. Instead, he looked at his handicap as one big challenge, and like a fire raging with intense heat that cannot be doused, Arnold returned to the thing he loved doing most—sports.


BALAIS: One of the country's best paralympic athletes

Arnold is among the country's best paralympic athletes. He has participated in numerous paralympic events in and out of the country; the medals just come pouring in. He was a member of the Philippine team that joined in the grandiose 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Arnold did the country proud again when he garnered gold medals in power lifting and the 5-km freestyle event in last year's 10th Malaysian Paralympiad Championships Asean Invitational in Kuala Lumpur. He also won a silver medal in 50-km butterfly. When it comes to sports, the guy is simply unstoppable!

Three years ago, Arnold packed up his gear and crossed the sea from his hometown of Bataan to Cebu, and since he fell in love with the place, he decided to stay here for the time being. Arnold now works at the Orthopaedie Frey Far East Inc. (Offei) as a patient advocate and technician. In fact, it was in Offei where I came across him again after our long-ago encounters in the climbing gym. There he was, as enthusiastic and vibrant as ever, as he helped people acquire the best artificial limbs and braces at friendly rates, with even friendlier prosthetists to help out. And Arnold is one of these prosthetists, always encouraging heartbroken amputees to literally stand up and walk again.

Feat

Just a month ago, Arnold made big news here in Cebu when he undertook the ultimate challenge of his life. In order

CEBU'S/ p.D4

Dulaang Talyer tweaks two plays

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

DULAANG Talyer is certainly revved up to take on the theater scene this year. This theater company's purring along smoothly like a well-oiled car with its performances. It recently showcased Tagalog translations of a well-known Colombian fictionist's short stories in "Mga Kwento ni Gabriel Garcia Marquez."

Herbert Go directed this trilogy of short plays performed at the CCP Rehearsal Hall and starred Philippine High School for the Arts alumni. The show began with a children's play, "Isang Napakatandang Lalaking May Higanteng Pakpak," and ended with "Ang Pinakamakisig na Nalunod sa Buong Daigdig." Both took off from the author's magical realism and had a light and surreal, dreamy feel.

The second play, "Makikitawag Lang Ako," though, was suspenseful and occasionally frightening. It reminded me of a "Twilight Zone" episode I saw as a child where a teenage girl was trapped inside a department store after closing hours. This play had its protagonist, Maria Cervantes, trapped mistakenly as a patient in a mental hospital. A dark comedy, one would laugh at all the comedic bits, but you'd be unsure if it's okay to laugh. At the back of your mind, you wonder if she'd ever escape as the remainder of the play unfolds.

A revelation from "Makikitawag" was Mylene Dizon look-alike Kristine Balmes who essayed six different characters. Quick costume changes kept the audience on their toes as they witnessed the changes. Her ambulance driver, with the afro wig and the deadpan face, was the most hilarious. But it was her buck-toothed Herculina that elicited the most response, laughter and revolt among others.

The lighting design was wanting but maybe because the rehearsal hall was not their originally intended venue. The evening, however, sustained the intimate mood suited for the material.

Light to heavy

Paul Morales took the driver's seat in another production as he directed Australian playwright Andrew Bovell's "Speaking in Tongues." This was a turn-off-the-light and comedic road as the material was decidedly edgier and more adult in tone compared to "Maikling Kwento."

Produced in cooperation with the Australian embassy in celebration of their Centenary of Federation, the play was initially shown in Sanctum*Unmasct bar at the Intramuros. We were able to catch the run at the Australian embassy in Makati. The play, which won the Australian Writers Guild Award in 1997 for Best New Play, is a novel intertwining with several subplots. Audiences can compare it to the nonlinear treatment of Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction."

The play starts with the story of two couples who cheat on each other with each other. Sounds confusing in a way, but a treat to watch as the couples interact and their lives intertwine. The first four characters talk of their encounters with other individuals, and these individuals eventually become the protagonists in the second act.

In the tangential stories that followed, the same four actors portrayed nine different characters throughout the play. It was always fun to see an actor perform double roles, like Mailes Kanapi's mousy housewife Sonia in the first act who transformed into a loudmouthed, bitchy Valerie in the second act.

While this company does not usually perform in English, this performance showed language is not a considerable roadblock. Filipino audiences are used to theater companies importing material from America and Europe. It's refreshing to see a play created by a much closer neighbor. Perhaps this could start a new trend in the theater scene.

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com

After having sex with her chum, she wants to renew their friendship

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Sep and Carlos,

I have a male friend who invited me to a party held at my ex-boyfriend's place. My other friend invited me to another party where I went to instead. It was pretty boring. It was timely that my best friend called to invite me again to his party.

I acquiesced and during the party, took two shots of tequila. My best friend and I were soon kissing and ended up having sex.

After that night we tried to forget all that happened. We still called each other but after a while, we became uneasy until we never gave each other a ring.

I still want to be friends with him. What should I do to bring our friendship back?

HOTLIPZ

Before giving any advice, may I just say that getting drunk and irresponsible is not exactly the best sign of maturity. Once you start drinking, you have to know your limitations. If you get your high from getting plastered, however, be sure that whatever regrets you'll have later, you'd know how to deal with them.

With that out of the way, I guess you could initiate opening up the communication lines between you. You have to expect the worst here, because what if he feels differently about you? It wouldn't be easy to bring back your friendship to the way it was, and it most likely would never be back to that level. Also, you can't just ignore what happened.

Deal with it, as well as the accompanying guilt, because it changed everything. Would you want to regard your one-night stand as just a stupid mistake or, because you feel more than just friendly with him, would you like your relationship become more intimate? Only you and your friend have the answer to that.

SEP

Let me start with the bad news. You can never get that friendship back.

The good news is that your friendship has evolved into something sublime, whether you reached the golden palace in the clouds or not. If I believe anything, it is that sex is the highest expression of love, regardless as to what your grandmother says. She did it, your parents did it and nobody can say that your experience is any less than theirs, except in the eyes of God, whom, if not for the sacrament of reconciliation and penance, would set His burning eyes on you and condemn you to endless suffering and hardship in hell. And that's the good news.

But I must say, with a name like hot lips—excuse me, Hotlipz—you seem to live up to the reputation that, by far, precedes you. Of course, you shouldn't regret it! Without alcohol, half the world's population wouldn't get laid. Having done it with your best friend is not the worst, unless he has a stack of membership cards from his favorite nightclubs.

Friends, best friends, bedmates. They will come. In and out of your life. The only constant is you. Take that very seriously, if anything. Ask him to look into your eyes and tell you if he's a careful guy. Ask for his health papers if you're not too sure. If he can't assure you, move on and be firm.

On that note, seriously, see a doctor and have your guy do the same.

Sex is a catalyst of relationships. Not necessarily breaking them up, but breaking the components (i.e. yourself, your best friend, the experience) down into recognizable, sometimes ugly parts. According to my sources, it's a rare one-night stand that can preserve those components, seeing you through to weddings, down divorce and then death. Chances are, you are thinking about the sex factor more than the guy, and that's normal, because it does matter more to you, being "the girl" in a "conservative" setting. This gives you some sort of power. Milk it for all its worth, Hotlipz; you have the ability to make guys squirm and be uncomfortable. To use those powers for good... we could be living in Zion before "Matrix 3" is released.

("Hotlipz," by the way, was a promiscuous army doctor, Maj. Margaret Hoolihan, in the longest rerun show on US television, "M.A.S.H.")

You've maybe reassessed, or are perhaps in the process of reassessing your life. You have self-doubt, maybe even great solitude, but, according to Rainer Maria Rilke in "Letters to a Young Poet," solitude, in its vastness, is the best thing that can happen (to an artist). "To be able to walk within yourself for hours and meet no one," there is your opportunity to mould yourself into the sex queen that you subconsciously want to be, or the lousy drunk you never realized you were, or the little child that just needs to be held once in a while.

If there's anyone who should be standing up and lawyering for the drunk, the irresponsible and the passed-out, pissed-on, pissed-off, let it be me.

CARLOS

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Delightful treats from 'Harry Potter'

FILIPINOS of all ages have come to love the international phenomenon that is Harry Potter, whose adventures are chronicled in a series of children's books by J. K. Rowling. Now, "Harry Potter" enthusiasts can enjoy the enchantment of the "Harry Potter" tales even further with the launch of official "Harry Potter" merchandise in the Philippines.

Starting this month, fans of the "Harry Potter" series can make it part of everyday fun with exciting trading cards, board games, toys, jewelry and bags. All these bring to life the magic of how Harry Potter, a seemingly ordinary boy, discovered he was a wizard after all and was sent to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There he made friends with magical characters, learned about the enchanting aerial game of Quidditch, and found out that there was a kind of magic inside of him that made him more special than anybody else.

These "Harry Potter" items are bound to delight all those who have been waiting for a way to relive the magical adventures in the popular book. For the "Harry Potter Trading Card" game for instance, a special group of researchers called The Wizards of the Coast Research and Development Team and illustrators developed the characters, creatures and other enchanted objects through many stages, making sure that all of them were rooted in all of Harry's adventures.

Other items of note are the exciting "Harry Potter" board games. With the "Harry Potter and Sorcerer's Stone Trivia Game," readers can test their "Harry Potter" knowledge and luck while challenging friends. It comes with a Sorting Hat so players can determine their Hogwarts House, after which they collect Charm Cards to win. "The Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone Mystery at Hogwarts Game" will challenge solving skills as players unravel mysteries through guesses about witches and wizards.

The Trading Cards and board games have been "test-driven" by a team of play testers (all huge fans of "Harry Potter") and an international cast of focus group participants who gave their thumbs-up and concluded that the games are nothing short of magical.

"Harry Potter" licensed merchandise such as board games and toys by Mattel, trading cards from Wizards of the Coast and Harry Potter bags are exclusively distributed by Bankee Trading Inc. and available at all leading department and toy stores and hobby shops nationwide.

Trivia game ongoing at NBS

STARTING June 16, select National Bookstore outlets have played host to the exciting Harry Potter Trivia Game, set to give life to the much-loved characters from the children's book series.

The game is a challenge for those who have read the books (especially "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone") and will test players' knowledge of "Harry Potter" and his adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. By answering trivia questions correctly, players can collect Charm Cards; the first to collect six different Charm Cards and races to his Hogwarts House wins. The Trivia Game is bound to be just as magical, with a Sorting Hat to determine your Hogwart's House, Spell Cards and Curse Cards. Surely, a game to challenge the wits of any "Harry Potter" fan.

The official round of competitions will start at 1:30 p.m. on June 30. There will be two sets of competing groups: Junior category (ages 8-12) and Senior Category (13 and above). Two games for each category will be carried out every Saturday thereafter, with only 24 registrants (12 for Junior and 12 for Senior) to be accepted each Saturday. By the finals on Aug. 18, there will be 15 stores with four winners per branch who will be grouped to play for the slots of second runner-up, first runner-up and champion for each category.

Winners will have a chance to win prizes that relive the magical story of "Harry Potter" over and over again: hardbound "Harry Potter" books, exclusive "Harry Potter" collectors' figures, "Harry Potter Trivia Game Deluxe" sets (limited edition) and "Harry Potter Quidditch Card Games." Those who don't qualify for the championship will still have fun prizes in store for them such as their very own "Harry Potter Uno Game."

Converse lifestyle hits the malls

CONVERSE, one of the leading global sports footwear and apparel brands, showcases its Athletic Originals and Action Sports. footwear, apparel and accessories collections in a mall tour show titled "Converse Lifestyle."

"Converse Lifestyle," a four-stop fashion show mall tour, features a combination of both classic design and up-to-date street and sports wear. "Converse Lifestyle" displays the brand's latest collection including caps, shirts, shorts, jeans and footwear, with distinctive style and impressive color combinations.

"Converse Athletic Originals as well as Action Sports footwear, apparel and accessories have been famous among young people especially in segments that enjoy creativity like musicians, artists and GenX sports enthusiasts," says Kim Sia, vice president for marketing of Filcon, the licensee for Converse in the Philippines. "Converse has maintained its following among the young ones due to the brand's unique heritage of smart and tasteful designs without compromising comfort and affordability."

With the versatile and trendy selection of footwear that would suit any individual's taste, the Converse Athletic Originals has been the preference among the stylish youth. This attractive line of footwear includes the famed Chuck Taylor, which has been a worldwide phenomenon since 1920s, as well as Converse Jack Purcell, which is today's teen favorite in the US, Europe and Asia.The category includes One Star V-3, Ail Star Wrecker, All Star Infinity and many more.

Converse Action Sports Goilection, on the other hand, represents the carefree disposition that young ones strive to achieve. This collection gives the youth a choice between being casual with a touch of style or being fashionable with a blend of zest. Converse Anion Sports is tailor-made for the youth's upbeat and aggressive attitude. The Converse Action Sports collection includes cross-training shoes like Authentic Training, Converse He:01, which is guaranteed light with its Helium Technology; skateboarding footwear like Kenny Pro-1, El Duque, C-S Pro-4; and the water-resistant Eco line led by Eco Helium.

The "Converse Lifestyle" fashion show started its tour May 27 at SM Southmall, with its second stop at Robinsons Manila on June 8 and continued on to Tutubanon June -16 with its final stop at SM City today.

Converse is a leading global designer, manufacturer and marker of high quality athletic footwear for men, women and children. The company is also a global licenser of sports apparel, accessories and selected footwear. The Converse Athletics Original Collection as well as other Converse products are distributed in over 90 countries to approximately 9,000 customers that include specialty, athletic, skate shops, sporting goods shops, SM department stores and other department shoe stores. Converse products are also available in Converse Concept Shops located at Filinvest Alabang, Tutuban Recto, All Mail Cubao, SM City Cebu and SM Iloilo.

Cebu's X-man is a hero to the disabled and the able

(From page D3)

to help the Handicapped Anchored in Christ Inc. (Haci), of which he is a member of, Arnold agreed to swim 1.5 km of sea in three hours. The Haci Swim for a Limb project was launched in cooperation with Offei to raise funds for and promote public awareness of persons with disabilities.

On the morning of May 13, after exhausting months of training, Arnold swam from Olango Island, crossing the Hilutongan Channel, and finally landing on the shores of the Cebu Beach Club, a distance of 3.5 km in just one hour and 26 minutes, that's two hours ahead of his expected time! Arnold swam with a bunch of varsity swimmers and triathletes, but was the first to finish the course. It was amazing considering that he was the only one-legged swimmer in the group. Because he decided to undertake this daring feat, Arnold helped in augmenting Haci's financial resources, and most of all, he opened the eyes and hearts of many people to reach out more to persons with disabilities. He proved to everyone that even handicapped people could do the greatest abilities that even a normal person couldn't do.

In a recent visit to Offei, I found Arnold wrapped up in a serious yet effervescent conversation with a new patient who was fitted with an artificial leg. I admit, I did some eavesdropping as I heard Arnold sincerely explain to the patient that it was okay to be afraid, but eventually that fear would subside once he would feel that using the prosthetic leg was just like having a real leg at all.

When I finally got the chance to talk to him, I found myself facing a widely grinning Arnold. I bet it must feel great to be heralded as a champion athlete and above all, a champion advocate for the downtrodden and out. He was not only fitting plastic arms and legs at the region's most competent orthopedic center, he was also letting his fellow amputees see that their disabilities might just be the start of a good life.

He once told me that whenever he met handicaps like him who were ashamed of themselves, he would tell them, "Don't lose hope. It's not yet the end of the world just because you lose an arm, or a leg, or even go blind. We're special people because God has something special for us. Everything is in a plan." Arnold truly has become an inspiration to many, even to the two-legged like me. Okay, so maybe there's nothing really uncanny about him, but nevertheless, I still think Arnold is the epitome of what a real superhero should be. Move over, Superman.

If you are a kindhearted soul willing to extend support to Haci, e-mail the author at ecinaj_35@yahoo.com or call Offei at 634-2705 (Pasig) or 253-8242 (Cebu).

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The government through the eyes of GenY public servants

By Julie Hudtohan
2bU! Correspondent

IF Inang Bayan asks, "What have you done for me lately?" what would you answer? I marched in the streets and kept vigil at the Shrine during the height of Edsa II? I volunteered for Namfrel during the last elections? I finally passed Philippine History this summer? I sang the "Lupang Hinirang" this morning?

While some of us may have to sift through the memories of past weeks or even months to answer her question, Julia Abad, Pat Gallardo and Ange Poblador would have no difficulty at all. They do something in the service of the nation every single day as executive assistants (EAs) for different arms of government—Julia under Secretary Dinky Soliman of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Pat under Vicky Garchitorena of the Presidential Management Staff and Ange under Secretary Dick Gordon of the Department of Tourism. While other twentysomething youths are preoccupied with clothes, gimmicks and high-tech toys, these three worry about helping their bosses run the country well and make Filipino lives better (on top of occasionally worrying about those other concerns, too).

An adventure begins

As expected, none of these three girls ever answered "public servant" years ago when asked the perennial adult-to-kid question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Pat is first to admit the road to Malacañang was a path she had no intention of taking fresh out of college. "The plan had been to get out of the country as soon as possible," she explains. Things changed when she discovered the opportunity to help the new administration through a friend (Denni Jayme, former PMS EA and Kompil II youth leader) and was hired by Garchitorena after only a three-minute interview! Foreign scholarships were deferred to next year, and Pat now spends her days "writing speeches, dealing with the press, going to cabinet meetings, and processing the thousand and one requests that find their way to PMS. *Dati kasama pa* events organizing for Sundays at Malacañang," she adds.

Julia, although no stranger to government as a congressman's daughter, also didn't plan on working for the public sector. Her current boss is a longtime family friend, and so she got the call to serve quite literally—and on Soliman's birthday, too. "I came from an alumni meeting. Everyone was complaining about the government. *Lait talaga.* Then one guy from the Department of Justice said, 'It's like that because good people don't want to join.' *Tinamaan ako. Tapos,* I went home and got this offer on the phone!" Julia laughs. A week later, she began at DSWD, becoming another Ayala "gift" to government in the process, following the steps of Garchitorena, her former boss at Ayala Foundation.

Ange, in happy contrast, saw working for Gordon a dream come true of sorts. "I always looked up to him and was really impressed with what he did in Subic. High school *pa*, I wanted to work in Subic," she recalls. "When a friend (Carmen Silverio, batchmate of hers and Julia's) told me she got a job working under him, I asked if they were still looking for more executive assistants—and they were!"

Upon this second mention of a friend working in the same department, it became only natural to ask if there is a sizable number of young people in government nowadays. The three pause as if mentally counting the friends in their heads, then Pat explains, "I'd say more than there used to be. The strong movement of civil society today has really carried on to the youth." She points out Edsa II as an example. "I guess it's all part of the desire to create new politics: young blood trying to change the way traditional bureaucrats have run the system to make it better," Pat concludes.

Hazards of the job

Sounds like a little too much to achieve so early on in life? Pat, Julia and Ange don't pretend it's easy. They know what they're up against, but choose to stay in the ring. "*Bago ka pa lang, bata ka pa, wala ka pang alam...*" Julia rattles off the all too familiar lines directed at young people like them. "It's so hard," Pat confirms. "The system has been like that for years. You can't expect it to change overnight."

And as if discouragement weren't big enough a challenge to get over, there are yet more hazards of the job that these girls battle daily. First off is the logistical nightmare and physical strain. "I go to work at 6 and get home at 10," Julia shares. "And I'm all over the city—or country—going from one place to another with my boss throughout the day."

"Then again, sometimes you don't go home at all!" Pat laughs, referring to the days surrounding the May 1 crisis. And Ange adds that there's emotional strain, too. "You can never satisfy everyone: if you do your job it's grandstanding; if you don't *syempre* they'll get mad, too."

Next, they contend with people who expect special treatment or favors. Or those who simply refuse to accept the limits of government offices or officials. And those who are just plain *makulit.* "There are people who say, 'But I'm Don whatever from *hacienca* whatever...' They refuse to line up for papers," Julia relates. "Other people try to schedule an immediate meeting by saying, 'But I was her classmate in grade school, we were friends so-and-so years ago," Pat adds. "Sometimes, they even want positions in government offices!"

PAT Gallardo, Ange Poblador and Julia Abad

But Ange's story still wins hands down: "At the height of the Dos Palmas crisis, some people couldn't understand why Dick Gordon couldn't be a guest at their association's general meeting. There are people who don't see that there are other priorities—like national security," she sighs.

Lastly, there is a whole caboodle of other smaller challenges to face: a whole assortment of things ranging from the funny to the scary. Things like the floodwaters in Manila and the prospect of being stranded in the office overnight, the recurring temptation to flash the Malacañang ID when in a traffic jam (Pat emphasizes the term "temptation"—she swears they don't wield their power even if many times they're positively itching to do so), the atrocious weight and size of their trademark EA bags, plus the abundance of unsolicited, often over-aged admirers and the lack of more likeable, younger ones.

Reasons to stay

When the laughter from these anecdotes dies down, Julia beats me to the draw. "We rant and rant, and yet we stay," she begins. She is momentarily interrupted by another round of laughter as they realize the irony of it all, then the three get serious. "There's still so much work to be done. There are so many people to help, especially for us at DSWD," Julia says. "Community organizing at the grassroots level, children, the urban poor. ." The list goes on as Pat picks up from where Julia leaves off: "... even basic things that you'd expect to have already been given, like livelihood projects and irrigation systems. *Maiiyak ka talaga pag nakinig ka sa mga tao pag nakipag-*meeting *sila sa 'yo.*"

But Pat's next comment clearly shows that in their own ways, these girls make sure that part of that work gets done daily. They can see how they are making a difference so that the lives of the people they encounter improve. "As executive assistant, I sit in these meetings and actually recommend decisions on issues. I handle requests: segregating the more important ones for immediate attention, or sending them to the right department or agency. I can expedite the process so that people get what they need sooner," she explains. "And that very well could be a life-and-death situation for some people across the country," Julia adds.

Another reason for staying seems to be one these girls do not really say it directly—perhaps for fear of sounding overtly cheesy. They all seem to have found great mentors and teachers in their bosses, not to mention good examples of good governance and sincere public service. There's a lot of respect and fierce loyalty when they talk about the people they work for, and even genuine concern and affection if you listen to them carefully. Julia recalls seeing her boss so hungry during a long meeting. "I remembered we had oranges in the bag, so I wrote her a note asking if she'd want one. But no one else was eating, so she said no," Julia recounts. "During the break, she followed me into the bathroom and said, 'Where's that orange?!'"

Pat shares that she and Garchitorena binge on chocolates a lot—good thing they both have low blood sugar and actually need the sweets for their health. Ange says Gordon is not so much a boss anymore, but sometimes even more like an uncle who plays tricks on you. "He loves taking the stairs and I hate it because I'm in a skirt and heels all the time, so I can't go as fast. One time, he purposely ran away from me!" Ange relates. "Then he told the people at the office, *ang hina-hina ko daw,* he was ahead of me by one flight of stairs. *Ang daya.*"

Behind the scenes

By the time they finish telling their favorite stories about their mentors, the girls are on a roll. Turns out there are a lot more stories to tell. And just before they launch into the next round of laughter, I catch an unmistakable sense of belongingness in their eyes; these girls have not only fallen in love with the work they do, but with the very human team they work with as well. Just how human? During the days leading to May 1, they worked round the clock with equally tired officials and government spokespersons. "They were so exhausted, you had to nudge them gently that it was time to face the press every so often," Pat intimates. "They'd wake up, comb their hair with their hands, smooth their shirts and get up. Your heart would really go out to them."

Julia even recalls sharing roasted peanuts bought off the streets outside Malacañang with other government officials at 3 a.m. "I bet people would never imagine *na minsan walang pagkain sa loob ng* Palace *nung mga gabing 'yon,* but the kitchen wasn't open 24 hours!" She goes on to say that one night they were all so tired—the military officers included—that they kept on pressing the wrong remote controls (the ones for the air conditioning and TV channels) trying to increase the TV volume for the news break (there's a remote just for volume control).

As if these tales weren't enough, Pat then told the story to end all stories that afternoon. It sufficiently drove home their point about the spirit of camaraderie and teamwork they experienced during the toughest times. On yet another night leading to May 1, Pat found herself in the Command Center with the President, her boss and another young person in government, Tony Lambino of the Office of the Executive Secretary. Pat was asked to cart the white board on wheels closer. Pat pushed the one end, and Tony another.

"*Sumobrang bilis ang* board. I couldn't control it. Before I knew it, blam, the board hit the low-hanging chandelier and there were shards of glass on the floor everywhere," Pat recalls amid her audience's laughter. Note that the chandelier was not an ordinary one, but an Imelda Marcos favorite that had been preserved for more than 20 years. A very forgiving Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo deadpanned what happened along with Pat's boss. And the story closed with a happy, though still quite funny, ending. Pat herself was laughing in between words, "Later on, the President was changing the TV channels manually because we couldn't find the remote again. I said, 'Ma'am, let me do that for you.' *Sobrang takot ako na baka sabihin niya, 'Wag na, baka sirain mo din ito eh!*" Thankfully, the President just smiled. But Pat is sure she'll be remembered for that chandelier boo-boo forever.

Message to peers

For Julia, Pat and Ange, when they think of their work in government, they think of the hands-on learning, the bonds established, the fulfillment from service, the comic relief—and everything else in between. And for them, there are no regrets. So confident are they that the experience of serving in government has been good for them, that they even recommend it to other young people.

"It will give you an opportunity to see your country as it really is, see how the *masa* works, how the palace and officials work," Pat points out. "Combined with what you already know about the private sector, you'll really see the synergy." Ange further emphasizes the service aspect of the job. "Instead of just complaining about how your country isn't the way it should be, actually being in government yourself is a way of contributing very concretely to the solution."

And if you think you can get away by saying you think you're too young, Ange has only this to say in response "Your years as a young person are actually the best time to give something to your country. You're not yet too jaded as adults are; you have the idealism the system badly needs." "Besides," Julia adds, "how many other jobs will give you the opportunity to change the lives of millions of Filipinos with the work you do each day?"

After spending an afternoon with these three girls, seems to me that though it's been more than a hundred years now, the spirit of that fateful June day in Kawit, Cavite still lives on.

Young people take to teaching

By Chrissy D. Icamina
2bU! Correspondent

By their youth and idealism, they add nobility to a noble profession

YOU inhale a nervous breath of fresh campus air as you scan the student-filled halls of school. The perplexed expression on the myriad of students' faces mirrors your own. The bell rings, your heart skips a beat. You then find yourself surrounded and being scrutinized by the watchful eyes of students.

First-day jitters aren't limited to students in the same way that learning isn't restricted to those who have enrolled. Teachers, especially first-time teachers, endure the same anxiety as freshmen stepping into college. Take a glimpse of what it feels like to be on the other side of the classroom as four fresh graduates of the Ateneo de Manila University talk about the euphoria and fears of being a young teacher.

Noble profession

Tapping on Shift F7 after typing the word "noble" will reveal synonyms such as "grand" and "admirable." Indeed, teaching is a noble career because of the grand rewards it provides. Moreover, teachers are admirable because they are fulfilled by these rewards—even if these rewards aren't exactly financially fruitful.

This is why it comes as a surprise that a high school valedictorian and magna cum laude graduate would pursue a teaching career. Barely a month after acquiring her diploma onstage, Minette Co stepped into a classroom full of 36 Mathematics students. She just graduated from management engineering, reportedly the most difficult business-related course at the Ateneo (she is pursuing a second degree in mathematics while teaching).

She says that her interest in an education career began when a Math teacher called her "stupid" for failing to solve a Math problem. "After that [incident], *nung gumaling ako, 'pag nakikita ko 'yung mga* friends *ko na nahihirapan,* I help them *kasi* I know what's it like to be [in that position]," she recalls. "So I helped [my friends], then *doon na*-develop *'yung* interest ko [in teaching]."

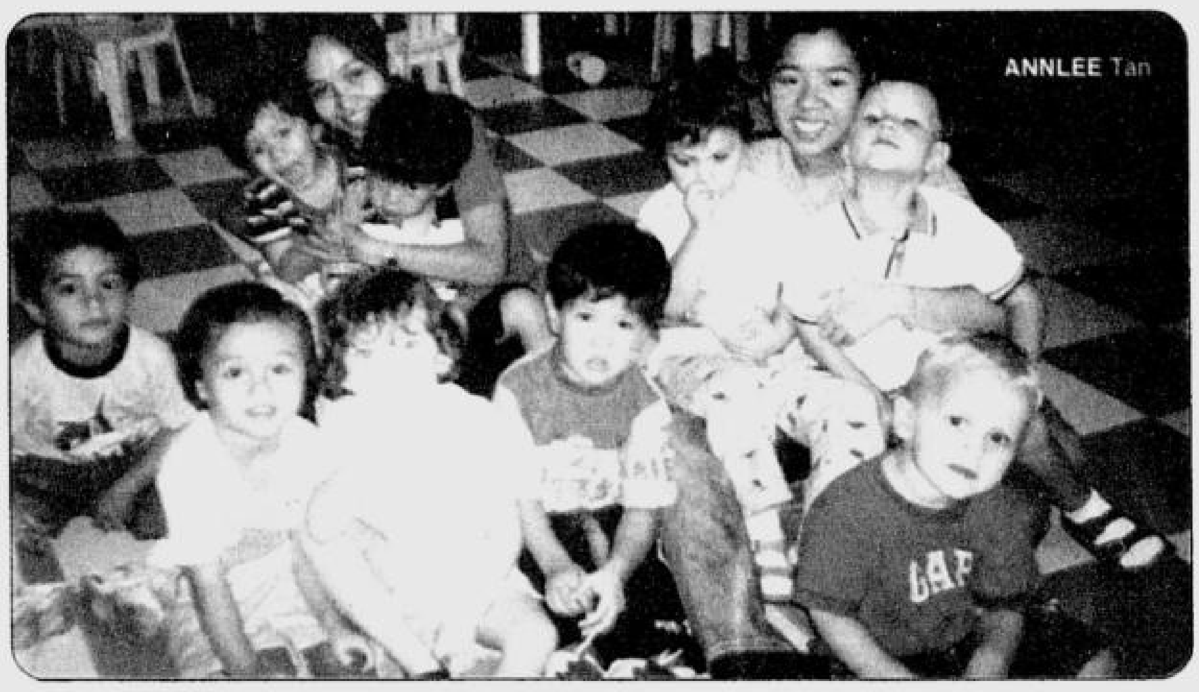
Teaching appealed to 1997 Ateneo high school valedictorian Loric Bernardo when he entered college. "When I was in high school, I was puzzled *na* why people give all this trouble [for teaching]," says the graduate of physics with computer engineering. "When I entered college, a lot of my opinions changed. [Teaching] is also that chance to be able to be part of people's lives. You also want to make a difference in people's lives somehow."

Biology graduate Annlee Tan had wanted to take up medicine. However, her senior year found her considering a career change. "Being a doctor would allow me to help others," she says. "But then, I thought I could help others in another way, and I thought that teaching would allow me to fulfill this." Asked why she wants to handle preschoolers, she exclaims, "The only reason is that I love kids!"

As for another biology graduate, Louella Panahon, she aspires to teach full-time once she acquires her Masters or Doctorate in Biotechnology. "In the [Biology] Department, *lahat ng kasama mo mga* doctors, so as a new graduate, *halos wala ka pang mabibigay.* But I really intend to become a teacher," she says. Louella is a teaching assistant at the Ateneo Biology Department.

Challenge

During Annlee's first day of teaching at the Creative Play Corner in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, a student told her, "I don't like you!" But she didn't allow that small incident to dampen her spirits. "But as the day passed, I learned to be myself. I knew that some of the kids were hesitant because they didn't know me, and so I didn't take [the incident] personally," she says.



ANNLEE Tan

LOUELLA Panahon

LORIC Bernardo

MINETTE Co

Facing a class of second-timers in the same Math course was a formidable task for Minette. She says that on her first day of teaching, her students claimed that Math hates them. But Minette encouraged them. She says, "My concentration was *na kaya ng* students ko. [And] that Math cannot hate them because in the first place, Math isn't a person."

If Minette's way of tackling the student-attitude dilemma is motivation, for future Math professor Loric, it is innovation. "There will be times when nobody seems to understand what you're teaching. That's where the challenge comes in. Your challenge is to be innovative, to get [your students] to see beyond the hieroglyphics on the board," he states.

Being young poses challenges for these young teachers. Louella recalls, "When I was still a student and we had young teachers, *hindi talaga kami naniniwala.* It's hard if you have the capability of being a teacher, but just don't have the credibility because of your age." Minette echoes the same sentiments, "*Kailangan mas* authoritative *ka. Dapat ma*-draw *mo 'yung* line. *Parang* friends *tayo, kasi maliit lang ang* age gap *natin, pero* when it comes to a point when from a teacher's point of view *na hindi ko na talaga puwedeng gawin iyan, hindi talaga puwede.* You earn your respect by showing that you really care."

Being students themselves not too long ago, they have certainly gone through the anticipation and anxiety of seeing their semestral grades. So will they fail their students? "As much as possible, I really don't want to fail students. But you're in a profession where you have to maintain a certain standard. Some teachers would really like to pass everybody, but if [the student] really doesn't deserve a passing grade, then you have to have that will and strength of character to give [a failing mark]," Loric maintains. As for Minette, "I always believe *na 'pag 'di pumasa ang estudyante,* it's not entirely the student's fault. It's always a dual relationship. But the fact *na* dual relationship *siya,* both should work, not only one." Out of her 36 students, six weren't able to pass.

Remembering

"As [your students] grow older, they may forget about you," Annlee says. "But it doesn't matter as long as you know in your heart that once in their lifetime you have become a part of their lives."

"In [teaching], it's a challenge to become the best that you can be and that's why it's hard *kasi siguro* some people have given up on that challenge," Loric says. And for young teachers like Louella, Minette, Annlee and Loric, it's commendable that they have taken up the challenge to pursue something as noble as teaching.

Bedlam and fun at Glorietta

WHAT do you get when you mix fun booths, a concert by one of the country's most popular bands and a hip fashion show? You get "Food, Fun, Music from the Buffet Table."

Held June 9 at the North Drive fronting Glorietta 3, the event, which was sponsored by Ayala Center, Warner Music Philippines and Seventeen Magazine, was the first of a three-part series of no-holds-barred shindigs guaranteed to make weekends bright. With official radio station Monster Radio RX 93.1 covering the highlights, it was one giant event that redefined the meaning of "party."

Well attended, "Food, Fun, Music from the Buffet Table" featured fun booths set up by Seventeen, Max Factor, fast-food joints, henna tattoo booth, and the official fan clubs of M2M and Christian boy band Plus One.

Barbie's Cradle wowed the crowd with hits from their latest album "Music from the Buffet Table."

The fashion by Lee Jeans USA, dubbed "Lee 54," paid tribute to the wonderful era of the '70s and relived the nightlife and fashion scene at Studio 54, the disco mecca of the '70s. Strutting on the catwalk were Cal Carrie models and ABS-CBN Talent Center stars Bojo Molina, Patrick Garcia and Jericho Rosales.

Teener is on top of the world with Globe and Benz

RUBY Ann Castillo is, in many ways, your typical teenage texter. With her trusty Nokia 3310, she enjoys exchanging text messages with her friends and stays up late feverishly texting away. Some of the friends in Ruby Ann's texting circle, in fact, are fellow texters she had met through text messaging.

Whenever her fingers are not poised on the cell phone buttons, Ruby Ann devotes herself to other interests such as having long phone conversations with her friends, singing and watching all her favorite shows on TV.

Ruby Ann is also a student who's now in second year high school at the University of La Sallette in Isabela. Socially aware at her young age, Ruby Ann's favorite subject turns out to be Social Studies. Not surprisingly, the youthful texter has dreams of becoming a lawyer someday.

The shy 14-year-old from Isabela became a Globe Handyphone subscriber just some three months ago when she bought her own Globe prepaid line. "Most of my *barkada* and friends are loyal Globe users, that's why I also chose a Globe," says Ruby Ann. As with all areas nationwide, the fact that her hometown of Isabela enjoys a very good Globe coverage was also a major consideration of Ruby Ann in getting Globe-connected.

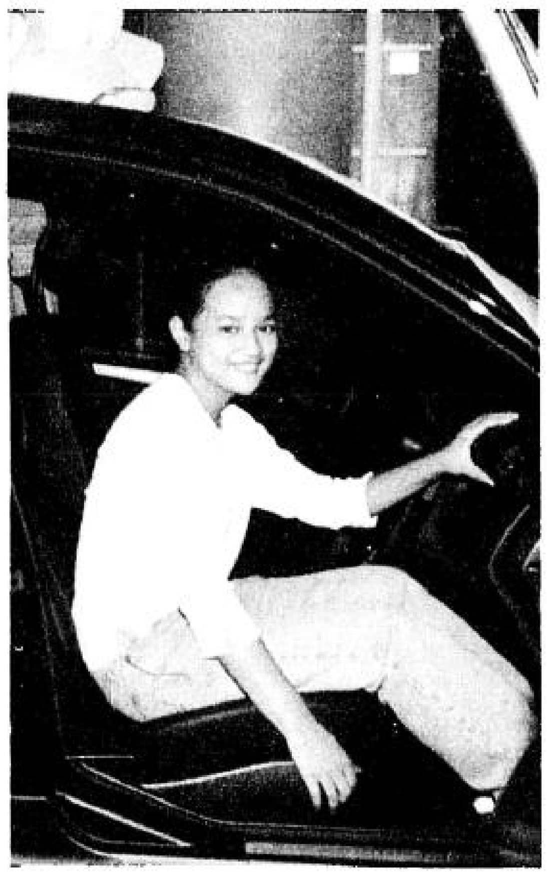
Ruby Ann's eventful decision to get a Globe turned out to be a fantastic prizewinning one—and what a prize it was! Her SIM card number was picked via an electronic draw on June 6 as the grand prizewinner in Globe's "3MLN TNX 2 U" draw—the highlight of Globe Handyphone's celebration for having reached more than three million subscribers. Globe president and CEO Gerry Ablaza and a DTI representative picked Ruby Ann's number in the draw and she won a brand-new 2001 Mercedes Benz C200.

Ruby Ann's SIM number was just one number among over three million others in Globe Handyphone's subscriber base. Odds for winning in the draw were a three-million-to-one. The relatively new Globe subscriber, however, handily beat the odds and became the winner of a Benz—and she can't even drive yet!

"What happened was so good, even I can't believe it," says an ecstatic Ruby Ann, who traveled the 10-hour trip from Isabela to Manila with her family to receive her car from Globe. "I'm also happy because everyone is so happy for me," adds the luckiest of Globe subscribers.

From now on, aside from the familiar "beep-beep-beep-beep" of incoming text messages, Ruby Ann will also hear a lot of the high-pitched "chook-chooks'" of her Mercedes whenever she presses the electronic key.

(FROM LEFT) Globe customer service VP Manny Aligada, corporate marketing AVP Mark Amoranto, marketing AVP Annie Naval and mobile business VP Charles Lim congratulate Benz winner Ruby Ann and her mother.

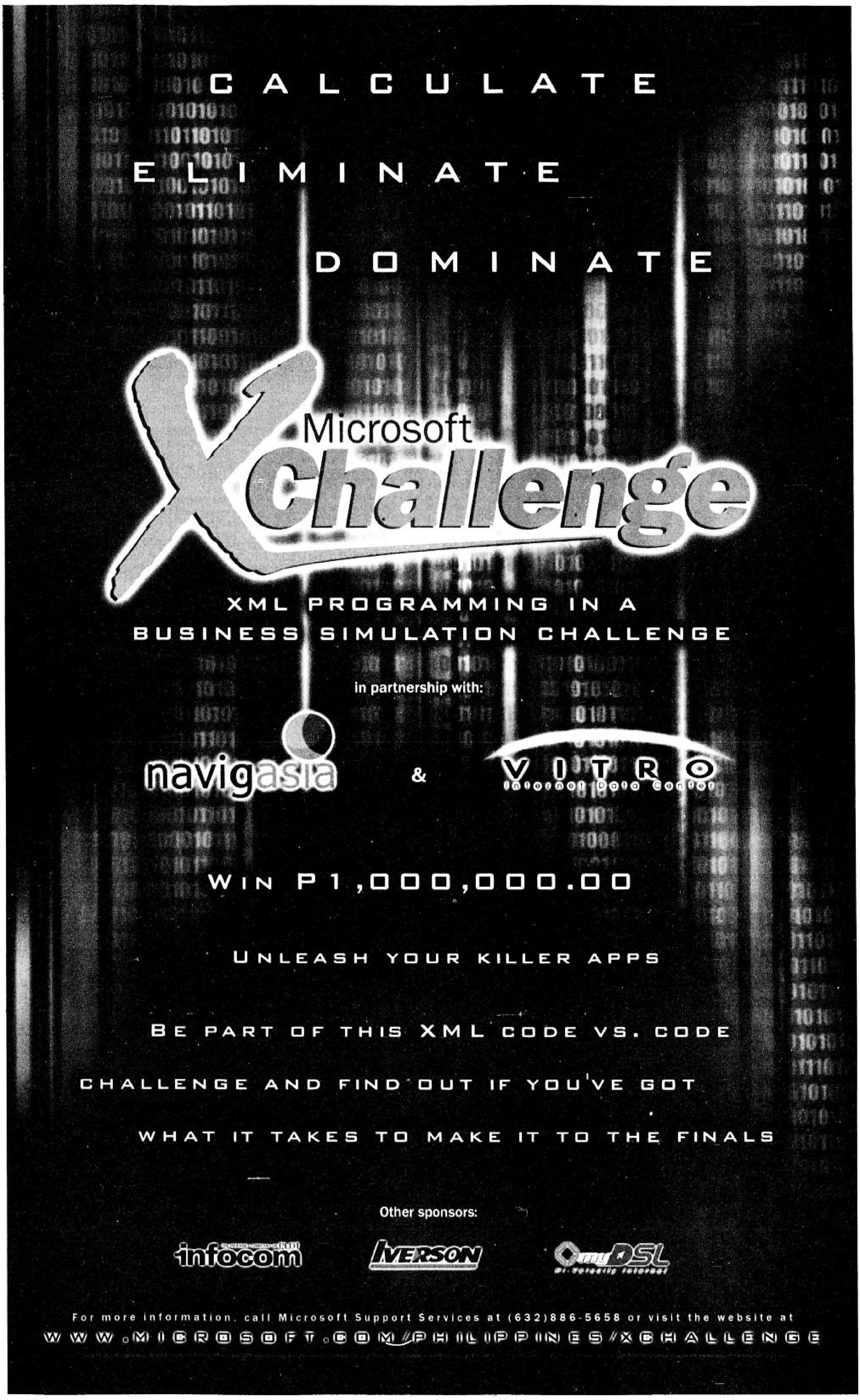


RUBY Ann savors the plush interiors of her brand-new Mercedes Benz.

MSA's guidebook for seniors launched

MSA Tutorial and Review Center has launched a school guidebook for incoming college students. Called "Senior's Guide to Colleges and Universities," the book contains profiles of different colleges and universities in the country, the courses and academic programs they offer, tips on taking entrance tests, different kinds of exams and helpful information about the academic advancement program and tutorial and review courses offered by MSA. A must-have for high school seniors, the guidebook is a perfect companion for students in choosing the college or university of their dream. It presents the information they need to know about the school of their choice, including the criteria and requirements for admission as well as admission procedures. "Senior's Guide to Colleges and Universities" is available at all National Bookstore outlets and MSA branches.

Call 435-6062 or visit www.msatutorial.com.



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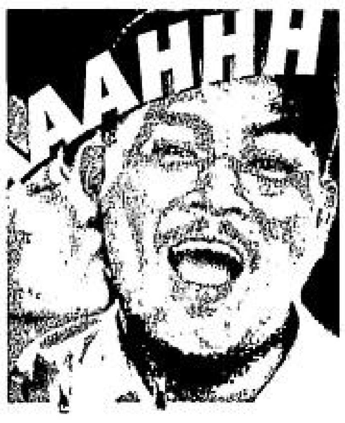

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The moon, the star and everything else that shines

By Raya Martin
2bU! Correspondent

THERE are a lot of ways to discover a band: on rainy days while choosing a radio station, going to bars or even while surfing the website. From mine to artist Avid Liongoren's Littlerocket.net, I found a link to his favorite band: Moonstar88. After a while, I would hear about them through gig-happy, bar-hopping Quezon City friends. Where on earth had I been? Riding with the band's online fan base, I suddenly found myself at Freedom Bar during an album launch. It was filled with beautiful people and everyone knew someone (or at least that's how they greeted each other). It was a sort of private party and the group was some sort of a private band.

Months later, I was in the urban jungle of SM Manila, hoping to catch a piece of their underground guts. In the background, their album was in heavy rotation and I couldn't resist a smirk upon hearing "Torete." I wasn't expecting Judy Ann to pop up from under the table (since "Torete" is the theme of her latest movie and they have been frequenting malls for this) but there I was with the band.

Not from scratch

It was Disbanded Bands Society: former Orphan Lily members Acel Bisa (vocals) and Paolo Bernaldo (bass) were itching to get back into the music scene. Along with drummer William Pineda of Green Farm and lead guitarist Herbert Hernandez of Angel in Disguise, they would form the band in the blink of an eye.

Well, I don't know if it was *that* easy. Paolo says they already knew each other before the band was organized. Here's how the six degrees went: Popo (William) called up Paolo, then Paolo gave Acel a ring. From then on it was a collaboration with neighbors and friends, until they found the perfect ingredients. With Terence Marcelo (vocals and guitars), they felt ready and complete.

They say a band's name can make or break its career. "*Nag*-word play *kami*," says Acel. Along with Paolo's special friend Mara, they combined a list of words that didn't make sense when put together. It was two papers long, about more than a hundred names. It could have been "Littlewing34," says Herbert, or, as Acel insists, "Cookiecastle." "Moonstar" was 88th on the list and, as Acel reservedly answered, "*Parang nagustuhan nila.*"

On their first day, they were immediately able to make an original. "*Hindi namin masyado tinray 'yung* covers," Paolo declares. They originally had a different guitarist, but he continued to work as a DJ. "*Nagkataon nakilala namin si* Herbert." As soon as they jammed, three originals were made. Acel proclaims, "*Alam namin kami na 'yun.*"

In one month, they were able to do seven songs. "*Yun 'yung binigay namin sa iba't ibang* recording companies." A major label finally caught on to their music, but they will have to change their image (and the Tagalog songs will be sacrificed). Instead of being transformed into a local Garbage, they turned down the offer and opted for ex-After Image member Chuck Isidro's deal. Chuck was working with Alpha Records. "*Nanood siya, sabi niya wala nang babaguhin sa tugtugan namin.*"

The name was already there. Moonstar88 was the talk in universities, especially at UP and UST. "*Tugtog lang nang tugtog*," Acel recounts, "*lalo na sa mga* school activities." It also helped that the members were already in the music business prior to Moonstar88. "*Nakikibalita kami sa mga* gigs," according to Paolo. Fortunately, Chito Miranda of Parokya ni Edgar was his classmate in college. "*Pinapa*-front act *nila kami.*"

Tasty popcorn

"Popcorn," their debut album, talks mostly about personal experiences "[It's] about life, relationships *namin* with friends, family, God, society…"

MOONSTAR88

Paolo explains that popcorn does not define their music. They used popcorn as a movie icon since their songs are like different movie themes: soft and hard, songs about God and nothing is ever the same. But it's all pop, Paolo clarifies. Or as they all put it, "bittersweet pop with lots of spunk."

When asked to compare their music to any artist, a bundle of familiar groups fly out: Echo Belly, The Sundays, Moonpools and Caterpillars. Their influences range from The Sundays to Steely Dan, from Tuck Andres to reggae music.

Working around the Pinoys' fascination with the local entertainment scene, "Popcorn" captures a variety of movie material stories. The album starts with the upbeat "Bata," a young girl's obsession with someone older. Acel's favorite, "Fall on Me," talks of her strong religious faith. Paolo's "I'm Sorry," with sweet and apologetic tones, could easily pass for a foreign track. Popular among the band's online followers are songs like "Untamed," "Hear Me" and "Doors." On radio are notable singles "Torete" and "Sa Langit."

'Popcorn' tracks

"I'm Sorry": *Nasa bahay ako ni* Mara, *medyo lasing. Tapos, uy, maganda yung pagkamalungkot niya. Saktong-sakto sa mag-a-*apologize *sa isang bagay.*—**Paolo**

"Torete": *Yung gumawa nun yung* manager *namin, si* Darwin. *Ang sabi niya tungkol daw to sa meron siyang na-*meet *na babae. Nagkagustuhan sila, pero kailangang umalis. "Kahit wala na, lilipad,"* hopeful *siyang magkikita sila.*—**Acel**

"Fall on Me" *Na-*depress *na naman ako. Ang daming masamang nangyari sa buhay ko nun, tapos parang narinig ko si* God *na* "you'll just have to trust me, fall on me, offer your life for me and I will take care of you."—**Acel**

"Sa Langit": *Si* Darwin *gumawa nun. Tungkol sa naba-*busted *lagi. Kaya sabi niya, sa langit na lang.*—**Herbert**

"Panaginip": *Gusto ni* Paolo *gumawa ako ng* song about *panaginip… parang* ice cream, cotton candy. *Nahirapan ako kaya panaginip ko na lang. Medyo* sorrowful *na panaginip, meron akong* boyfriend *nun,* four years *na kami. Tapos nakabuntis siya, magpapakasal na sila. Ginawa kong panaginip, paggising ko sana siya yung katabi ko. Naging malungkot yung panaginip.*—**Acel**

Just a project

Their video for "Torete" was directed by Robert Quebral, who's best known for his Parokya MTVs. And it's as promising as their career. Although it didn't make the MTV Pilipinas 2001 Awards, the video has been topping the charts.

Shot at the Mowelfund compound and at the Quezon Institute, the band relates a lot of interesting facts about the video. No one really knew the effect would be nice. They talk about the QI ruins, which wasn't in the original plans. As for the Mowelfund compound, "*Dun daw nag-*shoot *yung* 'Dyesebel'," grins Herbert.

Other mentionables are the artful turntable designed by multimedia artist Paolo and a cameo of band manager Darwin Hernandez. Doing the video was so much fun, the band agrees. Popo says it was some sort of project, no pressures whatsoever. Not much work.

No superstars

Work. That comes after the shoot, the gigs and recordings. Herbert is about to finish school from UST, Popo still works in the family's business and Paolo as designer for Weavecreatives. Acel? Well, she's spending her time sleeping nowadays although she says she plans to finish her masteral course someday.

While they are currently busy promoting their latest singles nationwide, the band already has plans for a second album. "We already have materials," they disclose. Hopefully by October, plans of recording will pursue. But for now, it's gig machine.

With previous bands in mind, is there a need to cross fingers? "*Kahit sa ano walang* assurance, *kahit sa* relationship," says Popo. But then the fact that their climb has been slow but sure assures us. "*Siguro mas* strong *yung* relationship *namin* this time."

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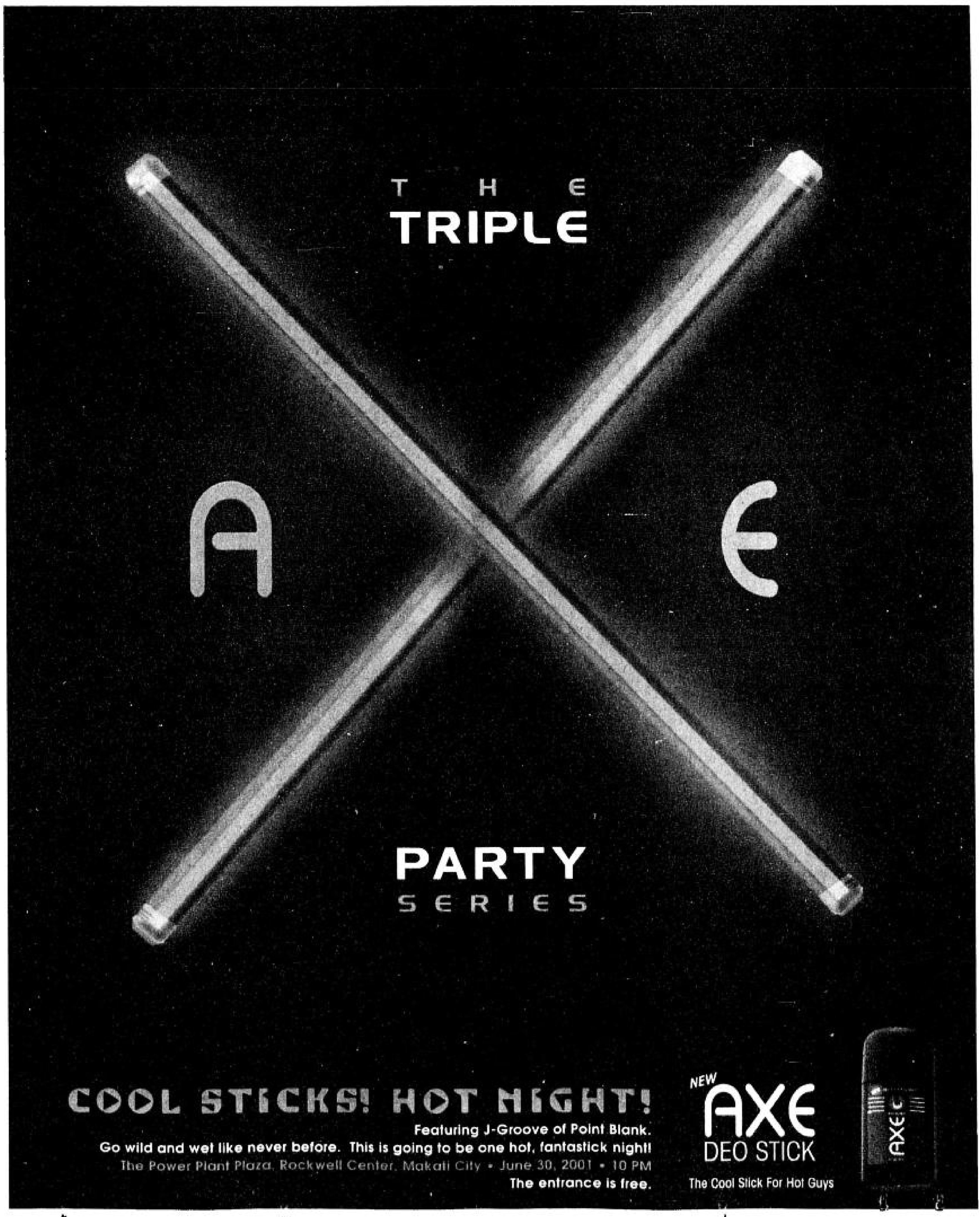

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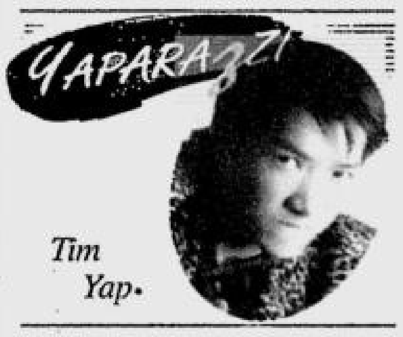
"VOULEZ-VOUS COUCHEZ AVEC MOI!" Mwah, mwah—Manila is once more getting ready for a close-up.

Don't write off the Manila night scene yet. From restaurants to sheer party places, the beat is throbbing back to life. It's as if it never said goodbye

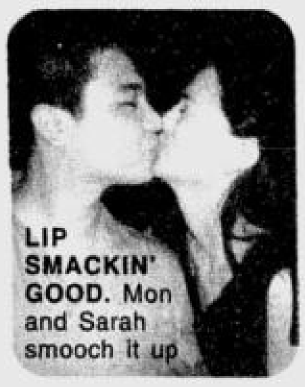
JUST when everybody thought that the Manila night scene was on the decline, or worst, dying, comes a slew of events and venues that scream out, letting the whole world know that nocturnal Manila is well and alive. Or better still, alive and kicking.



Tim Yap.

Ayala Avenue's Stars may have faded, the Giraffe from the zoo let loose, but a blazing blue-hued Azzurro Bistro and Wine Bar rises like a phoenix on the Makati night strip as it launches its sexy and scorching tapaz bar!

Look for to-die-for pan-fried delights from owner **Sheila Romero** and chef **Philip Golding**'s kitchen—from Cajun sausage dishes to beef strips, crab claws, oysters, *'calamares*, potato wedges, Greek mezze plates, and a whole lot more! And at prices from P50 (I'm not kidding) to P200, it's definitely a spicy treat' Expect too, the forthcoming Azzurro Too! at the Megastrip.



LIP SMACKIN' GOOD. Mon and Sarah smooch it up

Ayala's outskirts are equally hot, (what with Makati Avenue's Wasabi chill sensations and Flute's pied piper seduction at LP Leviste Street, Salcedo) with the latest addition, or shall I say evolution of our favorite Reposo Street watering hole. From lunch till dinner, Beluga Bistro serves sizzling Russian specialties for your Kremlin palate. Come party time, it dims its lights and shifts into comrade party mode—Pravda Wine Bar, attention!

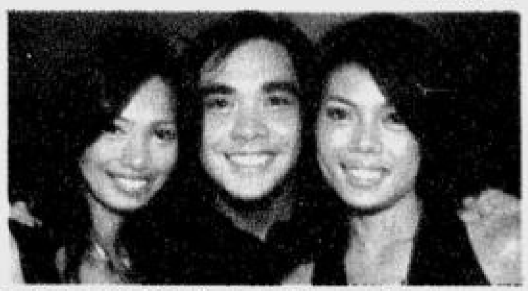
Tribute

Last Thursday, all partymates rushed to the scene to pay their respects to scene mover **Paolo Trillo** and the whole Trillo, **Rocha** (among other Español-sounding surnames) platoon—**Claudine, Angela,** even Sgt. **Joaqui** were there, armed with a wine glass, the night's awesome ammunition.

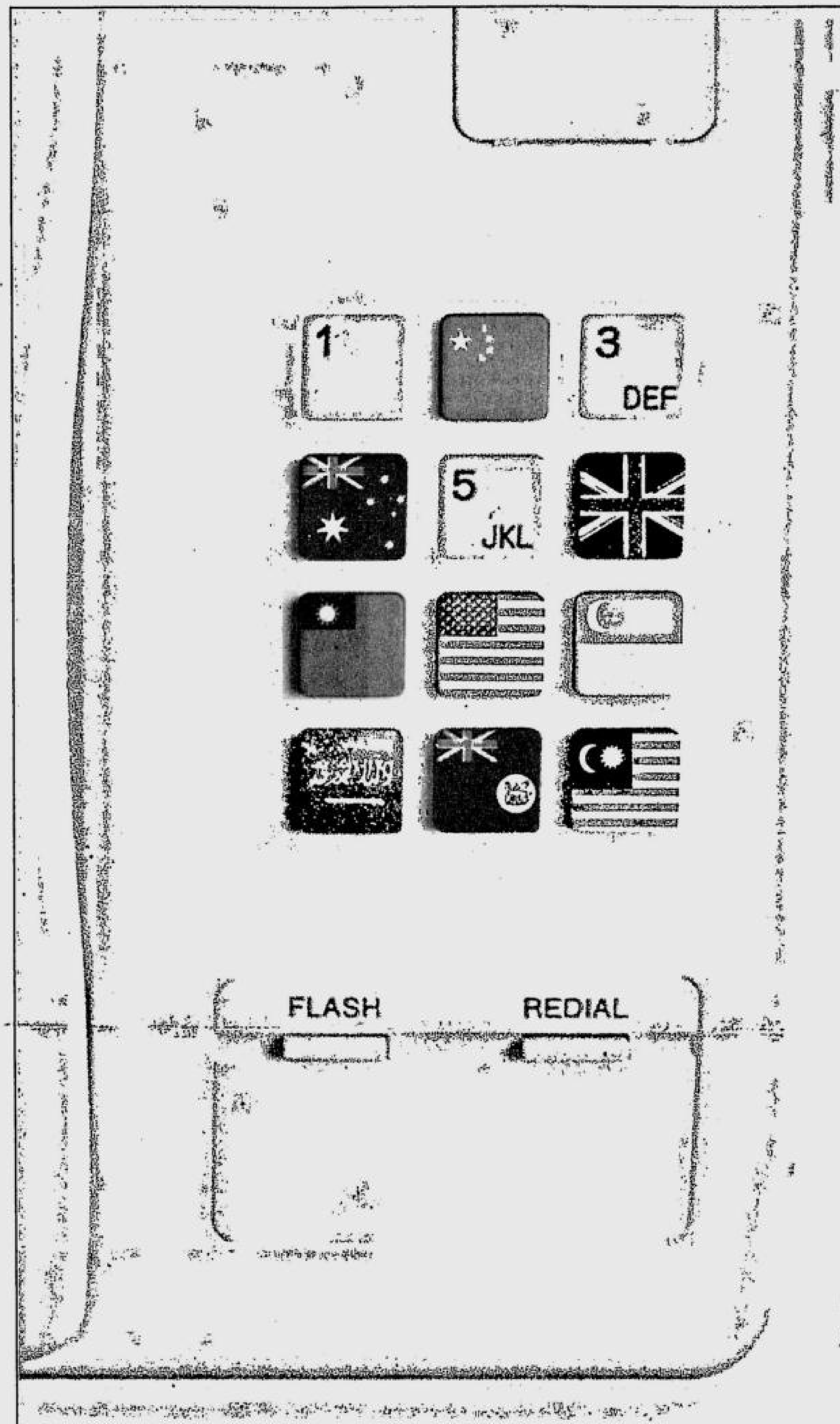
LUCKY STREAK. Nancy Catiglione and Lucky Manzano

A hipster military parade ensued, with wall-to-wall scenesters from style file **Mandy Santos** to "IT" girl **Sarah Meier**—it was young society heaven. A little bit too smoky, though.

AND/p.E2



MODEL TRIO. Maricris Perez, Paolo Relucio and Grace Molina



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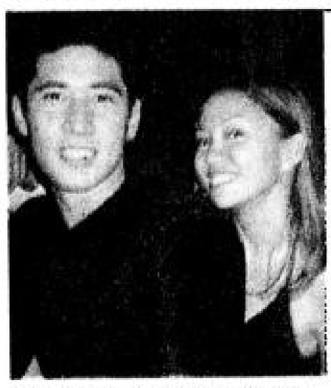
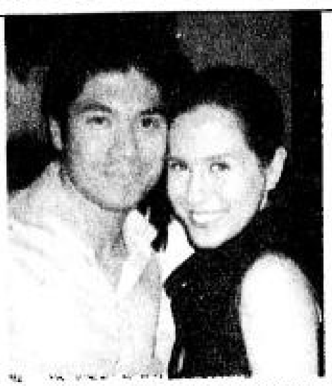


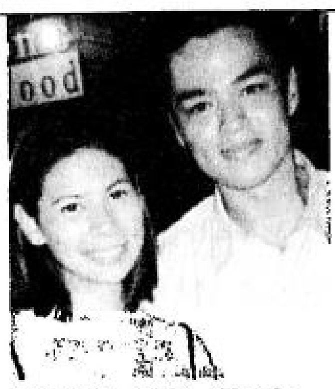
PRAVDA POWER. Paolo Trillo and Janelle So

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP



STYLE AND SUBSTANCE from Marco Antonio and Jackie Cohen

ON COMMON GROUND. Lara Fabregas and Raymond Bagatsing



PRAVDA PAIR. Cheska Trillo and Fitz Puyat

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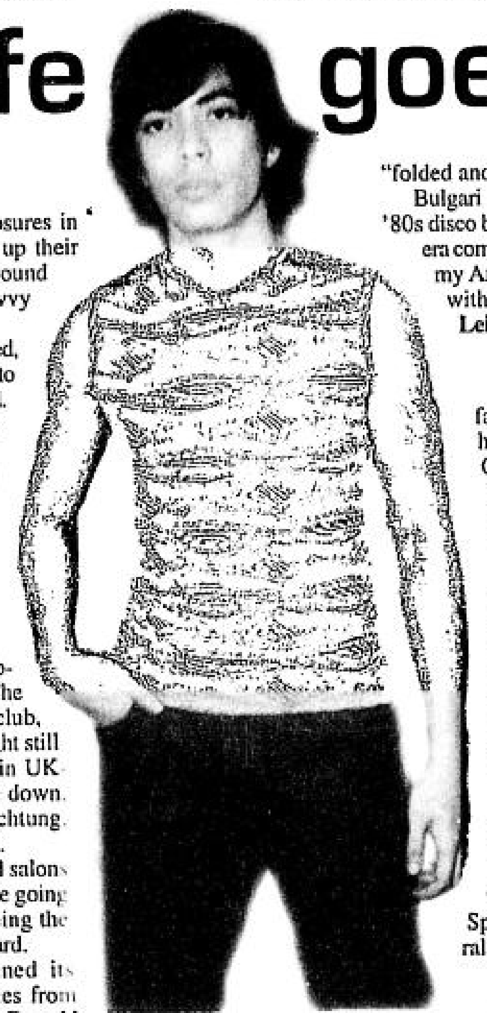
STYLE TOAST from Fabian Provost and Pia Guanio

And life goes on . . .



FOLDED and hung Robbie Mananquil

(From page E1)

On the Malate front, after several bar closures in the bohemian area, Common Ground beefs up their space situation by adding CG2 (Common Ground 2 to you and me), just in time for their savvy second year anniversary!

"Since Common Ground Café is always filled, we decided to have CG2 for patrons who want to chill," said managing consultant **Rommel Bernal**. "Midnight onward though, we synchronize the two venues for the ultimate party."

I hear a lot of other people are putting up new bars in the strip. The inimitable Firma founders are working on Fidel, their new bar baby, while DJ **Montano** of saucy, spicy Raj resto plans to open a bar right beside his hip Indian hotspot.

Wherelse

Even Wherelse, besieged with image problems, is trying its best to bring on the vibe. The NBK DJs have a Saturday residency at the club, while the club's regular Wednesday R&B night still rocks, I mean raps. Last Friday, it brought in UK bred Persian DJ **16B**—he brought the house down, everyone grooving to his pumping beats. "Achtung, baby!" is all I can say about this talented act.

And its not just bars—products, stores and salons are coming in, too. Despite the situation we're going through at the moment, it's still inspiring seeing the scene trying its best to put its best foot forward.

F&H, or Folded and Hung, just opened its Glorietta 2 store, with a slew of personalities from glitz biz doing the store unveiling led by owner **Ronald Pineda**. The store offers really hip and reasonably priced clothing for the urban guerilla in all of us. Find funky vests, multicolored shirts, skirts and tops, all "folded and hung" for your body's delight.

Bulgari kicked off its "logomania" collection via an '80s disco ball bash—with nocturnal creatures from that era coming out of their shell. For that event, I donned my Afros and "did the hustle" and "moon-walked" with multicolored **Tessa Prieto-Valdez** and **Leica Carpo**—groovy, groovy!

Franck and Fabio

On the salon front, we know that style favorite BCBG is now closed. Propaganda has now moved to the third floor of Greenbelt (beside National Sports Grill). Last week, I had oysters for lunch for the launch of Fabio Salsa, located at the third floor of the Power Plant mall.

L'Oreal Professionel hosted the afternoon delight, with **Franck Provost** and scion **Fabian** hobnobbing with pretty media personalities, who were also lucky to have been "touched" by Fabian's expert hands. "He's such a dish!" exclaimed one lady reporter inside the salon's warm orange interiors. I suggest you try that, too. I meant the salon, not Fabio.

The week before, the French cosmetic giant hosted the launch of their newest scent Ralph, held also at the Rockwell mall.

From the salon's orange walls, we moved to "pink!" that night as Premier Wines and Spirits introduced Tequila Rose—a fine, natural, rich strawberry liqueur and tequila.

Pink and wink

The Makati scene was tickled pink and woke up from its deep slumber as drag queens in—what else?—pink boas strutted their stuff around seemingly homophobic Venezia. "Wearing pink makes the man wink," says that popular adage—but that night, they surely winked more than once over the sweet, milky alcoholic substance. Wink, wink.

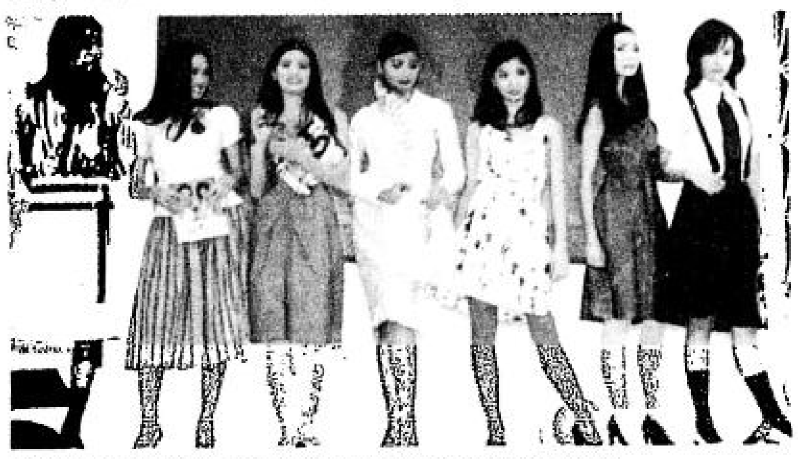
This week is no different, what with the flurry of events in the scene. Tonight, Absolut invites us to "Indulge" at the NBC Tent as it introduces in the grandest way possible its latest—Absolut Mandarin.

Saturday is Mandarin night as well at Raj on Maria Orosa as it holds its "Crouching Diva, Hidden Closet" by-invitation-only shindig.

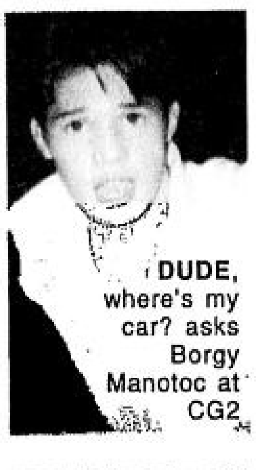
Before that, Thursday night, the Baja Beach Club on Pasay Road (atop Cable Car) opens its doors with an open bar and all-nighter dance trip to Baja with DJs **Manolet Dario** and **TC** of Traxx.

Saturday, all roads lead to Malate for gay pride—strights and gays all together in one street, celebrating "unity in diversity"—we only have one scene, so why not make it "solid?" And I don't mean hard, mind you.

Need any more proof that the scene is still alive? Check it out.

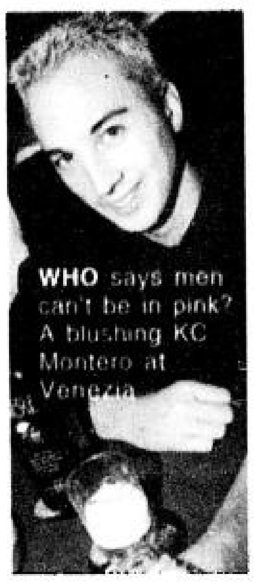


RALPH'S it girls parade to launch their latest scent.



DUDE, where's my car? asks Borgy Manotoc at CG2

THE PINK PANTHERS at the pink chic launch of Tequila Rose



WHO says men can't be in pink? A blushing KC Montero at Venezia

LOCO OVER LOGOMANIA. Tessa Prieto-Valdes, your columnist and Leica Carpo

"RIDE ME, BABY!" says Kathy Webb.

"KISS ME," asks alluring Allona.

YELLOW BELLE. Antoinette Enciso at Azzurro

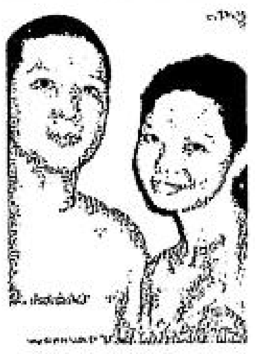
BACK ATTACK from Pazzy Navarro

BOY BAND. Pat Jalbuena, Steven Acuna, Marco Jaime and Jason Soong

COMMON GROUND CUTTING. Rommel Bernal, Eric Quizon, Derek Ramsey and Vina Morales

F&H files Hans Montenegro, Paolo Bediones, Ronald Pineda and Miriam Quiambao

BELUGA QUARTET. Bianca Araneta, Tanya Moreno, Pat Rocha and Ricardo Garcia

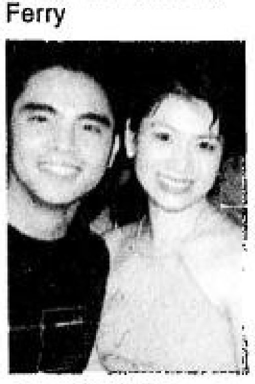


BVLGARI BAUBLES. Marco Katigbak with July Ferry

MODEL stripes from Christian Vasquez and Reggie Curly

COFFEE AND CREAM. Wilma Doesnt and newfound friend Javier

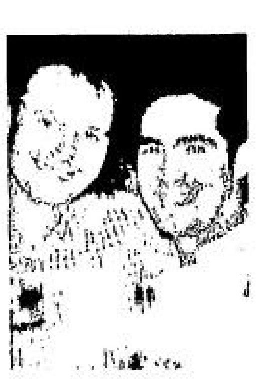
TUX DELUXE! Robbie Antonio and Joel Tantoco



AT AZZURRO were Marvin Agustin with Shella Romero

ROSE AND TEQUILA. Terry and Ted McDonnel of Premier Wines

THE MAESTRO AND THE DIVA. Franck Provost and Baby Cruz



CHEF DU JOUR. Cyrille Soenen of Prince Albert and Philip Golding of Azzurro

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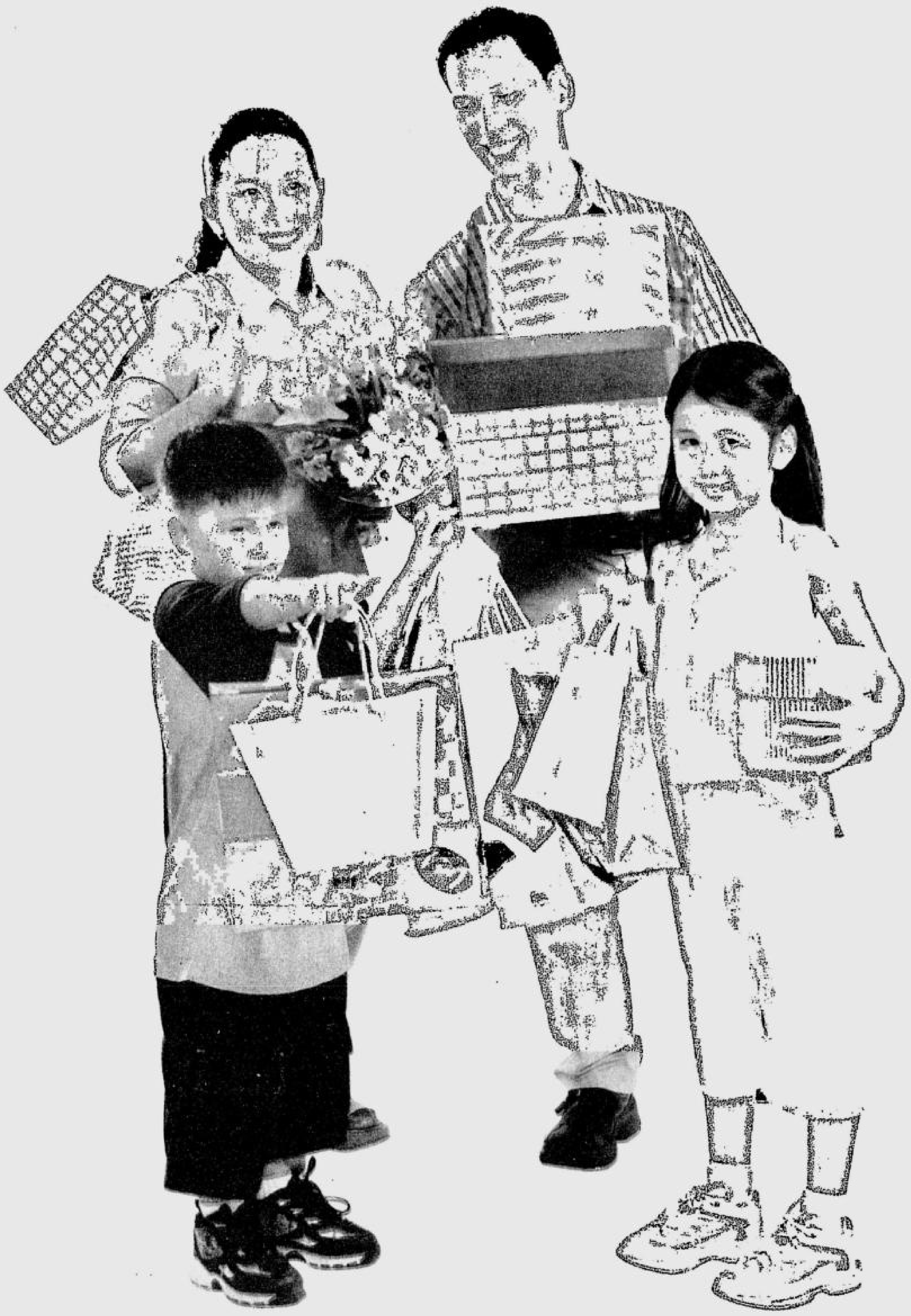

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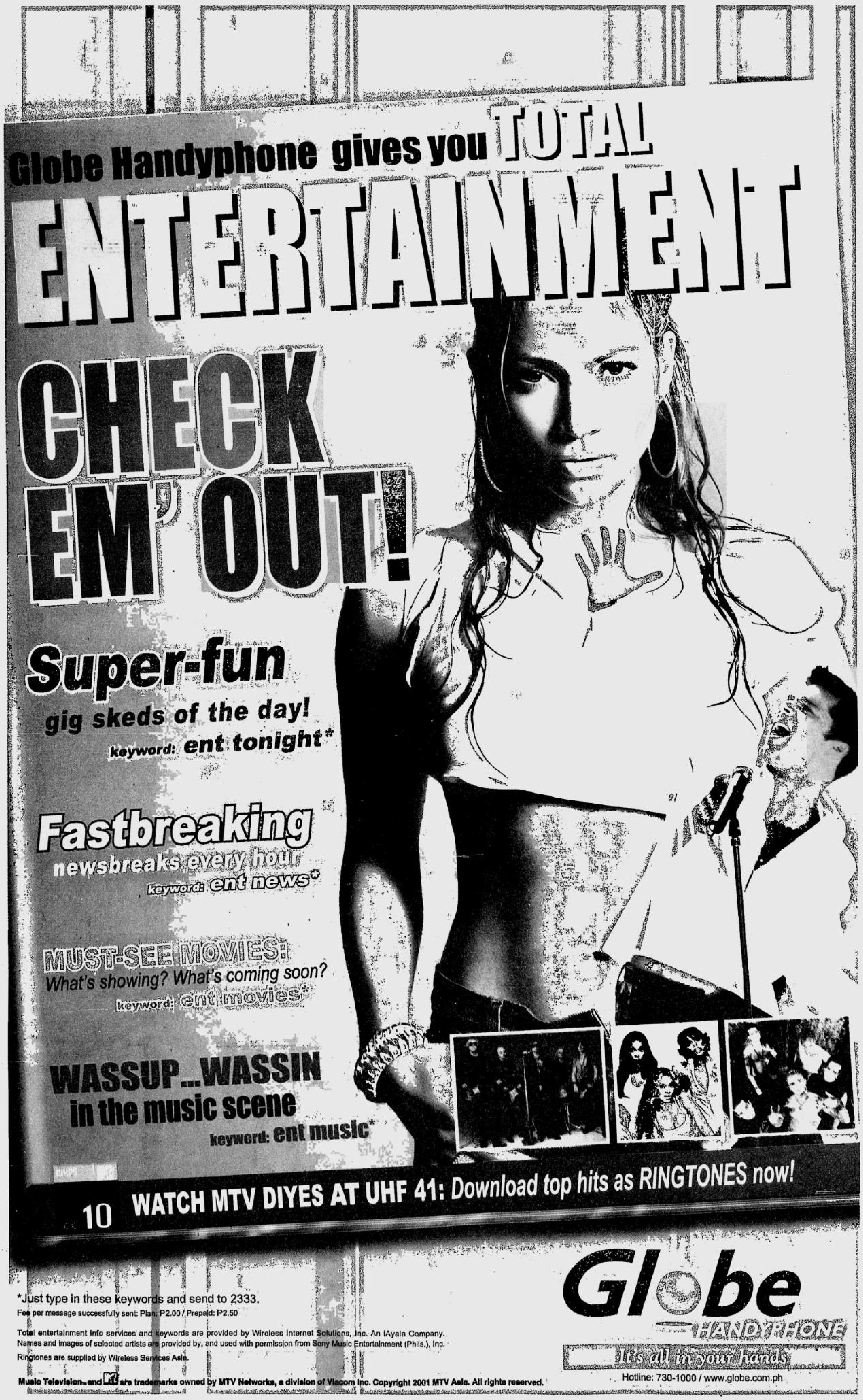

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